



Options in education

The Newsletter of the Washington Association for Learning Alternatives

President's Message

by Jim Sparks

As this year's president of WALA, it is my responsibility to come up with the theme for the two conferences, and for WALA as whole. This is a harder task than it appears; there are so many items to consider. Then, at an Executive Board meeting, I was listening to Cherie Exner, our secretary/treasurer and resident WALA historian. Cherie was talking about the very beginnings of WALA. She was saying that it was started by a small group of educators that wanted to share ideas, and help their students. Right then, I chose "Keeping the Focus" as the theme.

During the last couple of years, we have done an excellent job raising the awareness of our membership to NCLB, auditing, and other legislative pieces. We will continue to assist our members with these items. However, the focus will be on the sharing of ideas and experiences of WALA members and non-members. We need presentations on the successes experienced in the classroom and at your school. Check out the call for presenters form on our website-it is a great way to step forward and share what is working in your program, or school. Sharing with fellow members is the best thing we do.

The other focus of the year is student experiences. We need more activities like the Friendship Games run by Chris Allen and his program. When it was not raining in Western Washington, Chris and his students put on a highly successful and fun event for over 400 students. This year there are several student events scheduled by your region representatives. Be alert for information on these events, plan to take your students, and please volunteer to help make these experiences happen.

I look forward to a great year, and seeing everyone in Lake Chelan or Ocean Shores. Keep the focus.



Benefits of Entry Assessment

by Randy L. Hill, Principal, Sequim Comm. School

If you don't know where they are, how can you get them there?!

All students enrolled in Sequim Community School are required to take an entry assessment in math and reading as part of the enrollment process. These assessments provide baseline data for the staff in determining placement of students in courses.

As staff members design a curriculum specifically to meet the needs of the student, this information becomes part of the overall picture. We couple this with the current credit standing, WASL, ITED/ITBS scores and any information we may receive from other schools to provide the best opportunity for the student to succeed.

Students will be assessed a minimum of twice during the school year. This allows staff to make adjustments to schedule and curriculum for that student. Another benefit of the assessment is that students see growth and are provided a positive picture that they are learning and that education is of value. The self-esteem of the student increases, which in turn, seems to help with the climate of the school.

Although this is only a little part of the entire education process at Sequim Community School, it seems to be having a positive effect on students. Students and staff are aware of the specific learning challenges that may hinder their success. Each student and staff member is now able to focus on providing lessons that are appropriate for the level of the student to attain the necessary credits for graduation.

The Inside Scoop

President's Message	Entry Assessment	Conference Corner	WALA Business	Grants and Scholarships	Regional News	This and That	Opinions	WALA Calendar
1	1	2	2	3	4-5	6	7	8

**“What we do, if we are successful, is to stir interest in the matter at hand, awaken enthusiasm for it, arouse a curiosity, kindle a feeling, fire up the imagination.
Professor Julius Sumner Miller**



Conference Corner

by Gary Babcock

It's that time of year when thoughts turn to Kids and Halloween, Thanksgiving celebrations and Christmas gatherings. Oops! This is also the time of educational exuberance and the beginning of a new learning cycle.

What can you do for excitement between Halloween and Thanksgiving? You can involve yourself with "Keeping the Focus" and join in the excitement, camaraderie, rejuvenation and just plain fun by attending the WALA Fall Conference to be held at Campbell's Resort at Lake Chelan, November 11, 12 and 13, 2004.

At this fall's conference, we will be providing several opportunities to discuss current issues of concern, job-alike curriculum and challenges, as well as hear the latest information from OSPI. This will include updates on AYP, graduation requirements, alternative learning experience plans and audits, WASL revisions, and career and vocational guidelines and sessions with colleges involving best practices and parent partner programs. There will also be some delightful and diet-challenging apple/chocolate breaks!

Plan now to attend and stay current with what is happening in alternative education in Washington State. To register, go on-line to our WALA website, www.walakids.com.

See you there!

Our Real Job...

by Lile Holland, Executive Director

Now that the new year is under way, we have had a chance to look over the changes in the new requirements for graduation, our WASL scores, and AYP status. Before we saw our first student, we were inundated with "paperwork." Before we wrote our first ALP, we had to become familiar with new texts. It is easy to see how we can begin to feel overwhelmed.

As important as all of the above are, they still run a distant second to the real reason we are all here – the students. It is very easy to put the cart before the horse, to become so deeply involved with getting all of the "t's" crossed that we forget why we are in education. It is equally easy to get caught up in the mundane and lose perspective about what really matters. It is time to refocus our attention on student learning and doing our best to meet student needs.

Over the course of this year we will have more than ample time to discuss how the new requirements will be implemented. We will talk about AYP and raising student test scores until retirement graciously ends the debate. We will complain about the lack of funding, the additional workload, the increasing accountability, and unreachable expectations; but when all is said and done, we will put our heart and soul in working with our students. Alternative educators are just that way! We care about the rules and requirements, but our passion is with the kids. We want to do things right, but most of all, we want to do what is right for kids.

So, join me in feeling overwhelmed and frustrated – but let's not let it get in the way of our real job....

WALA Board Contacts

- President:**
Jim Sparks (253) 535-0211
jimsparks3098@msn.com
- President-Elect:**
Darlene Quayle (360) 379-4251
dequayle@olympen.com
- Past President:**
Cathy Hammerberg (509) 877-6138
chammerberg@nwinfo.net
- Sec/Treasurer:**
Cherie Exner (253) 537-0211
Cherie_Exner@fp.k12.wa.us Ext. 2415
- Region I:**
Steve Hoffman (360) 647-6871
shoffman@bham.wednet.edu
Rob Slater (360) 383-9344
rslater@ferndale.wednet.edu
- Region II:**
Martha Daman (425) 836-8348
mdaman@lkwash.wednet.edu
Jane Andrew (425) 702-3331
mandrew@lkwash.wednet.edu
- Region III:**
Randy Hill (360) 582-3400
rhill@sequim.k12.wa.us
Bonnie Jump (360) 538-8323
bjump@hoquiam.k12.wa.us
- Region IV:**
Marilyn Boerke (360) 817-4483
marilyn.boerke@camas.wednet.edu
Tom Hays (360) 904-7824
tom.hays@washougal.k12.wa.us
- Region V:**
Mark Brundage (509) 682-7744
brunn@chelanschools.org
Sherrie Patterson (509) 766-2667
spatterson@mlsd.wednet.edu Ext. 7300
- Region VI:**
VACANT
Gary Jensen (509) 942-2595
gary_jensen@rsd.edu
- Admin Rep:**
Terry Smith (509) 877-6138
TerryS@wapato.k12.wa.us
- Parent Partner:**
Marianna Hanefeld (425) 702-3331
mhanefeld@lkwash.wednet.edu
- Grants and Scholarships:**
Billie Needham (360) 879-1218
billie_needham@eatonville.wednet.edu
- Legislative Liaison:**
VACANT
- AWASSP Liaison:**
Steve Friebel (360) 313-4350
sfriebel@vansd.org
- Exec. Director:**
Lile Holland (800) 455-WALA
walakids@gte.net
- Conference Coordinator:**
Gary Babcock (509) 836-8414
babcockg@sunnyside.wednet.edu
- Newsletter:**
Darlene Quayle (360) 379-4251
dequayle@olympen.com

<p><i>Keeping the Focus Presents a challenge With EALRs, WASL & AYP WALA & OSPI & the ABCs Clouding my eyes With acronyms and rules That create a fog.</i></p>	<p><i>Like the owl and the pussycat Floating in a peagreen boat, The soup of that color created by lawmakers Challenges me often And makes it difficult to Keep the Focus On the Kids.</i></p>	<p><i>Anonymous</i></p>
--	--	-------------------------



Grants and Scholarships

Thank You From Our Scholarship Winners!

Dear WALA,

I am writing to thank you for your monetary assistance in helping me further my education. I am pleased to accept your generous scholarship offer. I will use it toward my education at Clark College where I plan to obtain a 2-year degree and then transfer to a larger university. My goal is to maintain good grades while pursuing a major in entrepreneurship. I also plan on participating in extracurricular activities such as Toastmasters, rowing, and fencing.

At the time I was applying for your scholarship, my plans included attending Army National Guard Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in Oklahoma during the summer, and then attending college in the fall when I returned. However, the National Guard has changed those plans for me. I will now be attending AIT during the months of October through December.

Your scholarship is ideal for my circumstances because I can postpone the funding until after I return from my Army training. Thank you again for the honor of being selected.
Craig Ebersole, Legacy High School

Dear WALA,

I would like to take this chance to thank you so much for the WALA scholarship. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and will help me a lot in furthering my education. I will continue to aim high in life, thanks to people like yourselves. You all make our world a much, much better place. Once again, thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Angie Lee

Henderson Bay High School

Dear Mr. Holland and WALA,

My name is Katrina Hennings, and I was this year's lucky recipient of the WALA scholarship. I was very excited to find out that I was awarded the schol-

arship; I worked my tail off on the portfolio. I can't thank you all enough. I have been accepted to attend Bellevue Community College, and I am looking forward to registering for fall classes.

Again, I cannot thank the WALA committee enough for what they have done for me. I can assure you that this scholarship will be put to good use, and becoming a great nurse is what I have to offer in return. I promise you and the entire committee that I will push myself to make the most of my college experience.

Katrina Hennings

Dear WALA,

Thank you so much for selecting me for the WALA scholarship. I will be going to Bates Technical College next year to earn an associates degree in early childhood development. This money will help a great deal.

Brianne Hanson

Henderson Bay High School

Dear WALA Scholarship Committee:

Thank you for the scholarship and the time you took to notice me. With the help that this and other scholarships have provided, my dreams of college and beyond will be coming true on August 27, when I am to arrive on the George Fox University campus.

My major will be theatre, and my side interests of carpentry, singing, drawing, writing, and reading will continue. This scholarship is of great importance to me because, aside from the financial assistance, it means that other people notice me and appreciate what I am doing.

Acacia Cadorette, I.C.E. Program

Dear WALA Scholarship Committee:

Thank you for considering my application and for your confidence in my character. Your decision to support me has become an integral part in the fruition of my future dreams and plans. Next year I am going to the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building to study traditional small craft construction before I receive my college education at Seattle Pacific University where I will study engineering in 2005.

"Reading and writing, arithmetic and grammar do not constitute education, any more than a knife, fork and spoon constitute a dinner."

John Lubbock

I thank you again for your support and confidence in me.

Fair winds and following seas,

Logan Cadorette

I.C.E. Program

Conference Follow Up Grants Awarded

by Billie Needham

Two WALA programs were recently awarded WALA Conference Follow Up Grants based on workshops they attended at the March 2004 WALA Conference. Bayview High School, in Langley, proposed the project "Save the Trees – Bye-Bye Paper, Hello Computer Management at Bayview." They sought funds to pay for staff development time. Their plan is to develop a system customized totally to their needs for keeping track of student contracts, projects, etc. The "Save the Trees" project is also supported by their district's technology coordinator and by in-kind support through Title I and Title V monies.

A second grant went to South Sound High School in Lacey. Their project is "Bringing Together the Five P's (Plan, Project, Portfolio, Pathway, and Parents)." This project will define and pace students through the collection of artifacts that provide evidence of tackling the five P's. In addition to district support, WALA funds will help South Sound High School create a structured portfolio that is used as a unifying document that validates progress toward meeting state defined graduation requirements.

Look for more information about each school's progress in future editions of Options. Each will also present a workshop highlighting their projects at a future WALA conference.

"The ultimate aim of education is to enable individuals to become the architects of their own education and through that process to continually reinvent themselves."

Elliot W. Eisner

Regional Reports



Region I

No Report.

Region II

By Martha Daman

Picture this: The academic atmosphere of an ivy-league university. Brick buildings tower high and impressive above the small ant-like people below. People of all ages walk through campus with energy excitement, backpacks or courier bags slung over their shoulders engrossed in enthusiastic conversation. The wonderful warmth of the sun beats down on sun bunnies taking advantage of the wonderful summer weather. And up on the third floor of Balmer, a building on the University of Washington campus, sit twenty teachers engaged in writing, talking, and sharing about their own writing and the writing they have their students do. The Puget Sound Writing Project Summer Institute is one of the best experiences a teacher can have.

Welcome to a new school year and I hope that everyone is getting a great start to the new year. My name is Martha Daman, and I am one of the Region II representatives for the Washington Association for Learning Alternatives. I teach at BEST High School, one of ten alternative schools in the Lake Washington School District. Along with my partner representative, Jane Andrew, principal of the Family Learning Center in the Lake Washington School District, we would like to welcome you to another year with WALA. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer; as you can tell from my introduction I spent four weeks in July participating in the Puget Sound Writing Project Summer Institute as a Fellow. The focus is on helping students write to learn. Part of this focus is to get teachers developing and experiencing themselves as writ-

ers. This was one of the most exciting aspects of this experience. I truly believe it has changed my teaching for life. All teachers of all grades and subjects are encouraged to apply and participate. I will be providing more information to anyone interested in learning more about the Summer Institute and Open Institute.

Jane and I are excited to be a support to you. We will be doing a teacher activity and a student activity this year. Please be looking for opportunities to provide us with information about topics of great interest to you so that we can try to address some of these topics in the teacher meeting we will be planning. Thank you again for continuing your participation in WALA and have a great school year!

Region III

by Bonnie Jump & Randy Hill

As your Region III Directors, we will be coordinating schools and inviting you to area events. Look for a fall event in Sequim, a winter event in Hoquiam, and a spring activity in Port Townsend. Details are still being finalized.

If you are interested in helping or just have questions, please feel free to contact us at bjump@Hoquiam.k12.wa.us or Randy at rhill@orca.esd114.wednet.edu. We look forward to seeing you at future events!

Region IV

by Tom Hays and Marilyn Boerke

Greetings, fellow WALA members. I hope all of you out there in Region IV had a refreshing summer and are raring to go on another year in service to kids. The big newsworthy event coming your way soon will be the November 4th presentation by Ron Glodoski at the Centralia Yard Birds. The presentation will be from 9:00 to 1:00, with a Region IV Meeting to run concurrently at noon. This meeting has been scheduled to accommodate those members who may be responsible for transporting students, or who may be expected to supervise traveling students. If possible, we are asking that you can arrange to have a

staff person available to students during the presentation, and have another staff person available for the region meeting.

Ron Glodoski gave a keynote address entitled, "The Real Deal on Turning Kids Around," at the Spring 2004 WALA Conference at Ocean Shores. He made quite an impression on all of the conference attendees. He is quite a dynamic speaker, able to connect with kids about decision-making, bullying, resiliency, drug, alcohol, tobacco, and other related issues. He will also spend time on topics from his book, *How to Be a Successful Criminal – The Real Deal on Crime, Drugs, and Easy Money*.

I will contact region members with by email with more details about Ron's presentation. However, this presentation opportunity is open to all WALA members as well as non-member school staff members who wish to attend. The process will be a simple RSVP to either of the Region IV representatives. Non-member schools will be asked to pay a fee of \$5.00 to accompany their RSVP. Please include an accurate student count if possible.

Call to all region members! Consider hosting a "Friendship Games." Our regional budget includes \$800 to support such an activity. It has been a few years since we have had one, with the main difficulty being the facility required to host. If any of your programs would like to take this opportunity to showcase your program and facility, there are a number of veterans around willing to share their expertise in having run and/or participated in a Games with you. Let us know by e-mail, in Centralia on the 4th, or at the Fall Conference in Chelan.

Region IV events on the horizon: Glodoski Presentation and Region IV meeting at Centralia Yard Birds/Centralia CAPS, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., November 4; Fall Conference and Region IV Meeting at Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan, November 11, 12, 13; Region IV Meeting at Excelsior High School in Washougal 12-2 p.m., January 22.



Regional Reports

“The arts must be at the heart of every child’s learning experience if...they are to have a chance to dream and to create, to have beliefs, to carry a sense of cultural identify.

James D. Wolfensohn, former Chairman of The Kennedy Center

If you have any questions or want to contact us, you can reach Tom at tom.hays@washougal.k12.wa.us and Marilyn at marilyn.boerke@camas.wednet.edu.

Region V

by Mark Brundage

Our joint Region V and Region VI mini-conference set for October 8th and 9th has been changed to December 3rd and 4th in Grand Coulee. We are currently in the planning process for this and will welcome your ideas for what you would like to see. So, bring your ideas to the fall WALA conference in Chelan in November. I will let everyone know more about this at the fall conference.

I am also pleased to welcome Sherrie Patterson as the co-Region V representative. Sherrie is enthused about participating in the planning and implementation of our upcoming Region V events. I am glad to share this representation with her. I can truthfully testify it is a rewarding worthwhile experience that has definitely broadened my professional experience in alternative education.

Check the WALA website this year for updates for: available scholarships, grants, and awards. There is money out there for you and your students through WALA.

One more note, there will be a major mini-conference for Parent Partnership Programs on October 23 in Moses Lake. The theme will be Best Practices. Please contact Marianna Hanefeld for further information.

Region VI

by Gary Jensen

With both Mike Carlson and Allan Korvola going off the board, we are searching for another Region VI representative ASAP. If you would like to know more about this wonderful and exciting job (calling) let me know and we’ll exchange e-mails until something good happens. I can be reached at gary_jensen@rsd.edu.

As a retire/rehire, I have enjoyed

my last three years working at the alternative middle school program (REACH) in Kennewick and in the contract learning program at River’s Edge High School in Richland in the afternoon.

Years ago, when my wife mentioned going to a WALA meeting, I thought WALA was half-way between the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla. Since then I’ve learned that WALA is a dynamic and powerful force for education in Washington. I became active in the regional meetings that were organized by Allan Korvola at various sites in our region. I also attended both state conferences and found all these meetings to be great opportunities to share and learn. At a regional meeting we heard a local author, Terry Trueman, and brought him to both Richland and Kennewick for student assemblies. Next month we’re bringing in Ron Glodoski. Both are highly motivational speakers we learned about thanks to WALA.

For now, here are some dates to put on your calendar:

December 3-4—Region V-VI Mini Conference at Grand Coulee (It’s in the planning stages, but a good one to put on your calendar.)

April 9—Parent Partnership Program in the Tri-Cities. (If you’re interested in the home school/public school connection, this is a good one to go to get information.)

April 30—Region VI Mini-Conference tentatively scheduled in Yakima. I’ll keep you posted.



Board Retreat Fun, L to R: ?, Marianna Hanefeld (hidden), Kevin Hanefeld (with Marianna), Sherrie Patterson, Region VI; Jane Andrew, Region II; Vince (with Jane)

Several PPP Events Scheduled

by Marianna Hanefeld, PPP Liaison

Parent Partnership Programs continue to be a driving force across the wide variety of ALE programs in the state. While we continue to see new programs begin, many programs are entering their second decades and beyond. With this comes continuing responsibility to work within the rules as they are currently written and also maintain the essence of what makes these programs unique to the ALE model—that of a partnership between parents, students and the public system. This is the commitment and the challenge that we work with every day.

Plan for three PPP meetings this year, beginning with a **PPP Administrator’s Meeting on Saturday, October 23, 2004**, intended for administrators of PPP programs, including principals, teachers or directors. Meet us at Columbia Basin Secondary School, 6527 Patton Blvd, Moses Lake, from 10am to 2pm. Lunch is included. The cost is free to WALA member schools, \$10.00 for non-members. Look for a flyer in your e-mail soon.

Other PPP events this year are tentatively set for April 9, and a PPP Parent-Student fair May 21st. All this and conferences, too—It looks to be a busy and exciting year. I look forward to talking to and seeing many of you around the state. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. For more info see the WALA web site or contact me at mhanefeld@lwsd.org or (425) 765-1116.



"The essence of intelligence is skill in extracting meaning from everyday experience."

Unknown

This and That



Puyallup Fair

by Cherie Exner

Audit Committee Report

Did You Know?

The Alternative School Survey that was sent out earlier this year provides us with very important data that helps us plan events and conferences and assists OSPI by giving them accurate information pertaining to alternative education in Washington.

From the data collected in 2003:

Did you know –

- there are 323 alternative schools and programs
- there are 77 Parent Partner Programs
- there are 36,627 students enrolled in alternative programs
- Elementary students make up 14.8% of the total
- Middle School students make up 7.1% of the total
- High School students make up 72.9% of the total
- the average graduation rate in alternative high schools is 51.8%
- the average drop out rate in alternative schools is 17.8%
- 57.8% process their own diploma
- 66.4% have their own graduation ceremony
- 70% have a waiting list
- 85% offer contract based courses
- 38% offer GED prep courses
- 43% offer internet courses
- 64% have students participating in College courses

If you have not completed your alternative school form and returned it to the WALA office, please do so – the data is very important to our planning and your representation.



The Puyallup Fair is over for another year and Alternative Education Day is a thing of the past. But, boy, did we have fun! This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase your program. Many people stop and ask questions about alternative education. This is a great opportunity for students to be seen in a positive manner.

Thank you to all the schools and programs that joined us at the Puyallup Fair. It is so important for WALA schools to be represented.

I am looking for someone to take on the role of Alternative Schools Exhibit Coordinator for next year's fair. If you are interested and don't mind making a few phone calls to call involved and interested schools, call me at (253) 537-0211, Ext. 2415 or e-mail me at exner@earthlink.net. Come and join the fun!



Jim Sparks, receiving his first award as WALA President: The Chicken Song Award

On September 11, 2004, the audit committee met to review the financial records. Present were: Lile Holland, Darlene Quayle, Cherie Exner, Jim Sparks, Barb Bennett and Mary Sparks.

Findings: One receipt was missing, but was discussed and accounted for. Three reimbursements were combined, but their forms not labeled as such.

Recommendations: Receipts should only include WALA purchases. Regional representatives will be trained in reimbursement procedures.

An improvement has been made in obtaining detailed receipts for food expenses.

We asked if the phone charges for the Conference Coordinator and the Executive Director could be simplified, but because of the various geographical ranges, we would not be able to consolidate phone services.

Everything else seemed to be in order.

Bookkeeper Barb Bennett welcomes the audit as it helps her find possible errors and keeps our records accurate for outside agencies.

Update your E-address book:

WALA's new e-mail address is:

walakids@comcast.net. The old address will be closed shortly after the first of the year. Please update your address books so we can continue to receive your input and questions.



Opinions * WALA Membership

"If you study to remember, you will forget, but if you study to understand, you will remember."

Unknown

Test-taking Not Always Best Test

by *Danny Westneat, columnist*
Seattle Times, 9/22/04

From the inside, Seattle's Orca Elementary feels like an educational dream.

The school has energized parents, a passionate staff and a racially and economically mixed student body. It's popular, with waiting lists to get into kindergarten and first, second and third grades.

And the classrooms are creative and alive. Consider teacher Donte Felder's fourth- and fifth-graders. Recently they deconstructed a Paul Simon song. Debated the Second Amendment. Analyzed data from a paper-wad-throwing experiment. Bantered parts of speech in a fast-paced word game. And began creating an original play based on *Brown v. Board of Education*.

That was just one day.

From the outside, though, something looks wrong at the South End alternative school.

According to the state's bellwether standardized test, Orca is one of the worst schools in the Puget Sound region. Last year, only two of 37 Orca fourth-graders passed all three sections of the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). The school was last among Seattle's 70 elementary schools in writing and near the bottom in reading and math.

Barring major improvement, Orca will be declared a failed school, which eventually could lead to a forced re-

structuring or new curriculum.

So which is it? Is Orca great, as more than 300 parents seem to think? Or is Orca horrible?

I can say one thing after my cursory evaluation of the school: It is insane that our society now judges schools based on one standardized test.

I spent only one day at Orca, and yet I now have considerably more information about it than does either the state or federal government.

Kids learn to play musical instruments. They do drama and dance. They take "living science," monitoring the moon's phases, doing weather experiments and using solar panels to generate electricity.

It is troubling that Orca kids do so poorly on the tests. As Principal Ben Ostrom says, it raises the question of whether all students get enough "rigorous academic challenges."

But standardized tests don't work equally everywhere. One example: When Orca kids take in-class tests, sometimes they can choose to take them verbally instead of in writing. You can't do that with the WASL.

"People come here because they have strong ideas about education, which may not square with what the state and federal governments say is important," Ostrom said.

There is open hostility toward the test at Orca. Last year, five fourth-graders boycotted it. As 19-year Orca teacher Liz Neuman said:

"I could give a rip about the WASL. We can teach to this test, but then how much of what makes this school great will be left when we're done?"

It's a good question. Getting everyone to meet basic standards is a laudable goal. I hope a place like Orca can find a way to pass the tests without sacrificing its unique curriculum.

But if it can't? There's a head-on collision coming between a top-down federal mandate and many bottom-up schools. Places like Orca show me it's the feds and the state that ought to swerve first.

Great Benefits to a WALA Membership

There are four kinds of WALA Membership. Choose the one that fits your school or program!

District Membership – provides a school membership to all alternative programs in the district. With a district membership, the superintendent or a school board member has their registration fee waived to one WALA conference each year, the school is eligible for school grants, graduating secondary students may apply for WALA Scholarships, alternative school personnel may attend WALA administrator's meetings and students may attend WALA sponsored events at no charge, the *OPTIONS* is mailed to up to four additional persons, the schools are listed on the WALA webpage as member schools, *and all district alternative personnel may attend WALA Conferences at a reduced rate for registration.*

School Membership – Individual alternative school members have the same benefits as schools with a district membership.

Individual Membership – Individual members will receive the *OPTIONS* Newsletter, may attend WALA sponsored events at no charge, and are eligible to apply for grants.

If your school is not a WALA member, contact the WALA office or go on the website to obtain a application form. The membership fee will be more than covered by your first conference registration fee, or the first time you go to a WALA sponsored meeting.

**JOIN WALA
AS A
SCHOOL TODAY!**

OPTIONS in Education **Volume 16, Number 1**

A bi-monthly newsletter of the WA Association for Learning Alternatives, a not-for-profit organization.

Editor: Darlene Quayle
(360) 379-4251

dequayle@mail.ptsd.wednet.edu
Production Editor: Isabel Gates
gatesi@silverlink.net

NEXT DEADLINE: NOV. 17, 2001

WALA
P.O. Box 4596
Bremerton, WA 98312-0403

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rene's
Mailings, Inc.

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

OCTOBER

- 8 OSPI Conference, Yakima, WA
- 10 Practitioner Workshop, Chelan, WA, Loc. TBA
- 15 Region III meeting, Seven Cedars Resort, Sequim, WA 2:30-4 pm
- 23 PPP Meeting, Columbia Basin Secondary School, 6527 Patton Blvd., Moses, Lake, WA
Administrator's Meeting, 10 am-2 pm
- 24 Practitioner Workshop, Vancouver, WA, Loc. TBA

NOVEMBER

- 4 Region IV, Ron Glodoski presentation, Centralia Yard Birds, Centralia, WA, 9am - 1 pm
- 7 Practitioner Workshop, Chelan, WA, Loc. TBA
- 10 Executive Board Meeting, Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan, 5:30 p.m.
- 11-13 WALA's 5th Annual Fall Conference, Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan, WA
- 12 WALA State Board Mtg., 5 p.m.
- 17 Deadline for *OPTIONS*

DECEMBER

- 3-4 Regions V and VI Mini-Conference, Grand Coulee

JANUARY

- 7 Spring Conference Flyer Mailed
- 14 Deadline for *OPTIONS*
- 21 Administrator's Meeting, Location TBA
- 22 Region IV meeting, Excelsior H.S., Washougal, WA, 12-2 pm; Exec. Board meets in am

FEBRUARY

- 1 Region II Mini-Conference, Renton S.D. Technical College
- 2 Region III Hoquiam Leadership with Ron Glodoski
Location TBA
- 4 Region V Mini-Conference, Location TBA
- 12 WALA Board Meeting, Conference Planning,
Region VI, Location TBA
- 19 Region II, Writing Across the Curriculum Workshop, Lake Washington Resource Center, 10 am-2 pm

MARCH

- 10-12 WALA's 29th Annual Spring Conference, Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores, WA
- 11 WALA Board Meeting, 5 pm
- 16 Deadline for *OPTIONS*
- 23 Region III Leadership Conference, Port Townsend

APRIL

- 7-9 IALA Conference, Iowa
- 9 PPP, Tri Cities, WA
- 15 WALA Scholarship Applications due
- 16 Executive Board Meeting
- 30 Region VI Mini-Conference, Yakima, WA

MAY

- 7 WALA State Board Meeting, Budget Planning, Snoqualmie Pass, 9 am-3 pm
- 10 Deadline for *OPTIONS*
- 20 Region II Friendship Games
- 21 PPP Parent/Student Fair, Old Woodway School

JUNE

- 11 Executive Board Meeting, Region I

For additional details, please call (800) 455-WALA or Lile Holland by cell phone at (360) 981-5487. You may also check the website at www.walakids.com for up-to-the-minute calendar updates.