

# Parents Without Partners, Inc.

*Parents Without Partners*

A Single Parent Support Group since 1957

## ***The Single Parent Newsletter***

*Volume 3 Issue 6 - December 2008*



Parents Without Partners, Inc – International Office  
1650 South Dixie Highway, Suite 402  
Boca Raton, FL 33432

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## Preamble of Parents Without Partners, Inc.

AS CONSCIENTIOUS SINGLE PARENTS, it is our primary endeavor to bring our children to healthy maturity, with the full sense of being loved and accepted as persons, and with the same prospects for adulthood as children who mature with their two parents together.

ADULTS AND CHILDREN in single parent families face unique and challenging circumstances. For children to mature and flourish in the absence of either parent requires an added measure of love, understanding and sound guidance. To provide these is a responsibility inherent in parenthood, regardless of marital status.

THE CHALLENGE OF PROVIDING for both ourselves and our children a nurturing family life is often complicated by established patterns of community life. Consequently, a need for community resources to assist single parents in communication and meeting their special circumstances exists.

THEREFORE, IN THE CONVICTION that we can achieve this end by working together, through the exchange of ideas, and through mutual understanding, help, and companionship which we find with one another, we have established **"PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS, INC."** to further our common welfare and the well-being of our children.

### Who We Are

Parents Without Partners (PWP), Inc. is an international, non-profit educational organization devoted to the welfare and interests of single parents and their children. PWP was incorporated in New York in March 1957 and now has Chapters in the U.S. and Canada. Its programs and activities are entirely the volunteer work of members of PWP Inc.

### Who is Eligible?

You are eligible for membership if you are a parent of one or more children; single due to death, divorce, separation, or never being married; and are of good character. Neither custody nor age of your child or children is a factor in eligibility.

### How to Join

You must attend an orientation about PWP. You will need to complete an application form and pay your first years dues.

### What We Offer

PWP chapters offer members friendship, support, and understanding. As fellow single parents, we know the ups and downs of life. Educational, social and family activity programs help members become better parents and make new friends. Those who have recently divorced or are surviving the death of a loved one learn how to restructure their lives, how to be alone without being lonely and how to communicate more effectively. They learn how to get more out of life and love again. While members are all single due to divorce, separation or death, PWP is not a lonely hearts club or a dating service. PWP is a non-profit, nonsectarian, educational and social organization devoted to the welfare and interest of single parents and their children.

*We are continually faced by great opportunities  
brilliantly disguised as insoluble problems."*



# 2008 - 2009

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*Parliamentarian* - Lisa Wood

*Secretary* - Janet Gallinati

*Chairman of The Board* - Wayne Kimball

**LEGAL COUNSEL -**

Contact Int'l President - Lois Adams

**TRAVEL CONSULTANT -**

Helen Lutz

[Helen@Donesontravel.com](mailto:Helen@Donesontravel.com)

*No organization can depend on genius; the supply is always scarce and unreliable. It is the test of an organization to make ordinary human beings perform better than they seem capable of, to bring out whatever strength there is in it's members, and to use each man's strength to help all the others perform. The purpose of an organization is to enable common men to do uncommon things."* ..... Peter F. Drucker

Please spread the word to everyone, not just PWP members. The following message was taken from the online version of The Armed Forces News published today. This is in regard to sending packages overseas directed to "any service member", or "any soldier", etc.

**Anonymous Mail Still Not Accepted**  
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Persons wishing to send gift packages, holiday cards, or letters to "Any Service Member" should refrain from doing so. The bar on such parcels that was put in place in 2001 is still in effect. However, there are still ways to send such donation packages. The Veterans of Foreign Wars will help; interested persons should contact a nearby VFW post in their area. Also, the Red Cross and the Pitney Bowes Corporation have embarked on a joint program that the Defense Department endorses. More information is available on the Web at <http://www.redcross.org/email/saf/index.asp?OID=NewsArticle111208>.

Please get the word out that even though you cannot send anonymous mail, there are still ways to get Christmas packages sent overseas to service members you don't know.

# 2008 – 2009

## INT'L COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

\* = new to the Committee

### AWARDS

SueEllen Hayes, **Chair**  
Anne Gladu  
Ann Hanson  
Gai Brajkovich  
Jo Johnson

### BARC (Bylaw/Administrative Review)

Jo Johnson, **Chair**  
Lois Adams, **Co-Chair**  
SueEllen Hayes  
Wayne Kimball  
Peter Sydor

### BUDGET & FINANCE

Lee Harris)  
Lois Adams  
Anne Gladu  
Wayne Kimball  
Lisa Wood

### CONVENTION 2009

Janet Gallinati, **Int'l Chair**  
Lois Adams  
SueEllen Hayes, Prog./ Youth  
Jo Johnson  
Lee Harris

### COMMUNITY

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Lois Adams, **Chair**, Cognizant Officer  
Kay Brewer, Off Board/Website Liaison  
Gai Brajkovich, Community Relations  
Ann Hanson  
SueEllen Hayes, Secretary XO  
Jo Johnson, Public Relations  
Peter Sydor

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Garland Harris  
Jo Johnson  
Lisa Wood

### ETHICS AND GRIEVANCE

Lisa Wood, **Chair**  
Garland Harris, Vice Chair  
Brian Kjos

### FAMILY & EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

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Gai Brajkovich  
Anne Gladu  
Jo Johnson  
Peter Sydor XO

### MEMBERSHIP

Ann Hanson, **Chair**  
Janet Gallinati  
Brian Kjos

### NOMINATING

Ann Hanson  
SueEllen Hayes  
Don Palermo\*



If any member needs to get in touch with someone on one of these committees, please use the INTERNATIONAL LIST OF OFFICERS and DIRECTORS for the listing of their e-mail addresses and/or their phone numbers. Please be aware of the time difference, when you are calling. Thank you.

..... **From The President's Desk  
In Oregon**

Hello,

Who's going to the convention in July? Hope you all are going. It is coming along great with so many really fun things to do. We are really trying to plan a fun vacation for you with some PWP work added in to round out the whole week.

I hope your Thanksgiving was truly great. I hope you got to eat too much and have many, many things in your life to be thankful for. I am thankful for my children and grandchildren. Many people don't get to enjoy this wonderful experience. I am thankful for my job. Many people in today's economy don't have this to be grateful for either. I actually like my job, too. This is one more thing to be grateful for. I can drive. I can walk. I can swim. I can talk. I can breathe. I have a large family. I have PWP. What a wonderful life I have. I hope you all can think of many things you have to be thankful for, too.

Christmas is right around the corner. How about giving a gift to PWP? It's even tax deductible. International is looking for ways to get money to keep our great organization going. We need help from our members, chapters, regions and anyone else you can get to help us. Donations would be very helpful. Please help me and everyone else to keep this organization afloat.

The next thing is a whole new year. How great is that? We get to have a whole new year! Next year will be bigger and better than ever. So much to do, so little time.

We need to have more people volunteer. Our great organization is built on the idea that volunteers do all the work. They work hard to help all the people who need us. Today is not like yesterday. Today people are too busy to help others. Volunteerism has always been the heart of PWP. Where has our heart gone? Who will volunteer? We need volunteers at every level of this great organization. We need new ideas. We need new people with new ideas willing to try new things. Let's get out there and find those people!

Your President

*Lois Adams* 



## .....And from the Administrative Vice President

We are well into the busiest time of the year for all of us and the time of year for families to gather together and this includes our PWP family! Many of the chapters have special plans made for the holiday season. Many have planned special days for dinners for the members and their children and trips to see all the decorations on homes and businesses.

The most special functions that are being planned are for those less fortunate - the homeless, nursing home residents, the physically challenged and packages, cards and letters of encouragement to our armed forces! Please don't forget our men and women in the war zones. Let them know we care.

For some reason or other I awoke and remembered a phrase I had to type over and over in typing class in high school. I am sure those of you who took typing class will remember it as a favorite drill of the instructor! Here goes - "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country" - remember that one? Well, it made me think that it should read "**Now is the time for the members of PWP to come to the aid of the organization**"!! There are several ways that we can help keep Parents Without Partners going strong. Retain our current members and recruit new members. Our membership is declining at an alarming rate. We are losing our valued long time members and not bringing in new members, making them feel welcome and part of the best single parent organization around. Our organization is maintained by the membership dues we send to the International Office to pay for processing membership related business. Without this resource, we cannot exist. This is our main source of income but we do have other avenues to generate income. Fundraisers!! When was the last time your gathered up old cell phones, used ink cartridges and sent them on for money and sent the money on to the office for the general fund? Or, split the money with the office and the chapter and or region that did the collection and forwarded the items on to collect money?

We also have several ways mentioned on our website to generate income. Have you used "GOOD SEARCH" when trying to find information on the Internet? Bought any books lately from Amazon.Com? Have you sent flowers to someone lately? We have a site that generates funds for our organization if we use it - [pwp.bestflowers.com](http://pwp.bestflowers.com).

I love being a member of Parents Without Partners and want to see it continue for another fifty years for single parents to be able to meet other single parents and be a part of a great support group to help them adjust to a new way of being a parent! Please put your best effort forward and help keep our organization alive.

*Jo Johnson*

International Admin. V.P.



## ..... 'Tis The Season

There are four seasons to each year - Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Each has a special meaning for us. To me Spring is the beginning - where new flowers bloom and each day becomes brighter and brighter, Summer is that time of the year where the weather is warm, children are running free in the water, at camps, growing; Fall - that time when the colors come alive and the school begins once again, where we begin the solstice of time and reflections; and then there is the Winter - a time of warm fires, freaky Halloween costumes, a day of plentiful dinners and of course, then the trimming of trees and a man in a Red Suit with reindeer in the sky.

During each season we meet new people, make new friendships and sometimes say goodbye to others. There is a meaning to every season as the saying goes - *what are those meanings to you?* Each of us has struggled through separation, divorce, never been married even death and yet we are here, in today's world as single parents with young (and older) children meeting new challenges. *What are some of those challenges you have met along the way?*

Each of us has something to offer to another - another friend, another new person in our life, another single parent who may be just starting out in the single parent world. Offerings can come with each season of the year.

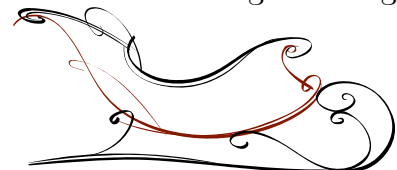
Family and Education are two cornerstones in a single parent's world. Family - those people within our lives that mean so much to us. Each person we choose to acknowledge as part of our every day life, who make a difference to us in some way or another. *Family* can mean our parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, our children and their children and those friends who mean a little something more. *Education* - that which we learn and that which we can teach to others. We can educate ourselves to further our future and the future of our children; we can educate others with our adventures and travels throughout the single parent status we have. Why not teach others what we have learned so that they can better themselves and their children?

Do you have a story that you can tell to someone? Why not write it down and share it with others? Pick a season and let other single parents know how you traveled through that season - what you knew, what you thought you knew and what you learned. Your small story can help others and it can show that you care enough to share with new parents first coming into the single parent world. Send us your story to share with others in the next Single Parent Newsletter.

'Tis the season and what a season it can be for each of us. May each and everyone of you have the happiest of Holidays and the Best New Year !!

*Sue Ellen Hayes*

Int'l Vice President  
Family & Educational Programming





# SYMPOSIUM ON UNDERAGE DRINKING PREVENTION

At the request of the International President, I represented PWP at a two day symposium in Washington, DC on Nov. 6 & 7, 2008.

The first challenge was to start my day at 5:30 am two days in a row in order to drive to the DC Metro transportation system and then travel by train on to the hotel. Keep in mind I was already operating on a lack of sleep due to serving at the election polls from 5:30 am until 9:30 pm on Tuesday.

The first day was attended with the thought that if I didn't feel it was worthwhile I would not attend the second day. I did arrive on time both days and attend the entire two days of meetings.

The symposium was sponsored by Nationwide Insurance Co and coordinated with M.A.D.D. Participants were the U.S. Surgeon General, National P.T.A. President, Maryland House of Delegates and representatives from American Medical Assn., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Highway Traffic Safety Adm., National Transportation Safety Board, National Org. for Youth Safety, National Liquor Law Enforcement Assn., National Safety Council, National Alcoholic Beverage Control Assn., Indian Health Services, American Academy of Pediatrics, National Assn of Elementary School Principals, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Youth Leadership Institute, Y2Y, Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free, etc.

The first day was devoted to what the situation is today regarding underage alcoholic beverage consumption and the effects of it. Many studies have been done by various agencies that show the later in life a child begins the use of alcoholic beverages the more responsible decisions are made and the less likely they are to become dependent upon alcohol at a later date. The teenage accident rate has declined significantly since the legal age of consumption/purchase was raised to 21 in 1984.

On the second day more studies were presented which show the same conclusions. Also various current laws (which vary from state to state) and their enforcement were discussed. Utah Alcoholic Beverage Control provided information on how they have aggressively approached this issue.

Of major concern to all attendees is there is a movement at the present time to reduce the legal age to 18. Further concern is the social availability of alcohol - from their parents, from older friends, at house parties, etc.

The goal is to keep our youth (our very own children and grandchildren) safe. Greater education of parents is needed as it was also found in many studies that parents have the greatest affect on their children.

The consensus of the meeting was that none of the individual agencies/organizations can accomplish the task; however, by forming a coalition and approaching the issues in various ways, great things can be accomplished.

This was a fantastic exposure for PWP. I was readily welcomed and provided information on the structure and mission of our organization. There was opportunity for networking during lunch and breaks and provided an opportunity to share contact information with several attendees.

As a plan to participate in addressing the issue is formulated, information will be provided to IBOD for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lee Harris*



## A Family & Marriage Counseling Directory

I am writing to you let you know about a site that would be a great resource to list for your visitors. The Family & Marriage Counseling Directory was started by Chris Hartwell, MSW. Chris was a student of Social Work at Tulane University in 2003, when he began studying the accessibility of search engines to community resources. He discovered that if you typed in 'Marriage counselors' or 'Family counseling' into Google that there were no lists of therapists or resources for the public at the time. That's when he started The Family & Marriage Counseling Directory (<http://family-marriage-counseling.com>) to fill that gap and provide resources to communities in the US and Canada. All of the initial therapists were included for free, and the site has become a very popular portal for counseling on the web today. So much so, that many therapists and psychologists frequently submit articles for publication on the site. When you link to The Family & Marriage Counseling Directory, you help connect people to the help that they need, and the links help the site stay in the search engines.

There is no cost to the public for any of the information published on the site. May I request you therefore consider linking to this directory from your site? I am providing the linking details for your use:

Title: The Family & Marriage Counseling Directory

URL: <http://family-marriage-counseling.com>

Description: Family & Marriage counseling resources, articles written by professional therapists, live phone counseling, recommended books, and more.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,

**Julie Allport**

**Resource Director**

**The Family & Marriage Counseling Directory.**

<http://family-marriage-counseling.com>



## Some Ways In Protecting Yourself From Identity Theft

1. Change your passwords on your debit and credit cards, don't use easily available information.
2. Secure personal information in your home.
3. Ensure your personal information is secure in your workplace.
4. Don't give personal information out over the phone or internet, unless you have initiated the call.
5. Guard your mail and trash from theft. Deposit outgoing mail in a secure box at the post office. Remove your mail from your mailbox as soon as possible. Put your mail on hold when away.
6. Shred all mail and paperwork that contains your personal information.
7. DO NOT carry your SIN / SSN card
8. Don't carry credit cards you do not need.
9. When using your debit or credit card, always keep it in your view and swipe it yourself if possible, protect your PIN.
10. Monitor your bank accounts, your receipts and your mail.

**Peace Be With You...-**

**Peter Sydor** | Zone J National President/Webmaster  
**Canadian Parents Without Partners, Inc.**

***Our Children are the Future.***





## Computer Tech Tips

Signs that your computer might be infected or compromised:

- Your system shuts down spontaneously and frequently
- Your virus scanner crashes and cannot be started again
- Your hard disk fills up and you can't find the files using the disk space
- Your computer is exhibiting unpredictable program behavior
- Strange graphics appear on your screen
- Advertising pop-ups appear every few seconds
- Extra toolbars in your browser that won't go away

Should these appear in your system, you may very well be infected.

Possible Solutions:

- An up-to-date anti-virus program may repair some of these and clean your system.
- If you don't have the computer background to look inside and troubleshoot the problems, the easiest solution is to reformat your hard disk and reinstall all the programs.

**Peace Be With You...--**

**Peter Sydor** | Zone J National President/Webmaster

**Canadian Parents Without Partners, Inc.**

Our Children are the Future.

*\*\*\*\*\* Blessed Be - So Mote It Be \*\*\*\*\**  
*\*\*\*\*\* What We Think, We Become \*\*\*\*\**



\* \* \* \* \*

***SAVE OUR TREES***

Go to the Internet link below and ask to remove your name from receiving telephone books

<http://www.yellowpagesgoesgreen.org/stop-yellow-pages/>



When doing your Christmas cards, take one card and send it to this address. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special people who have sacrificed so much would get. A Great Idea!!!

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

**A Recovering American Soldier  
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Avenue, NW  
Washington, D. C. 20307-5001**



*Happy Holidays to One and All*



## HONORING THOSE WHO HAVE LEFT US

We honor those who have meant so much to PWP – who have given this organization their time, energy, and their belief in what we do for all single parents and their children. We ask for your thoughts and prayers to their families in their time of loss.

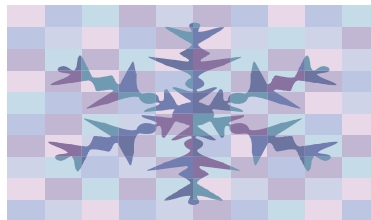
**Roselle O'Donnell**  
**Former Int'l Secretary**  
**and**  
**Int'l Scholarship Judge**  
**1911 - August 2008**

**Patricia Breton**  
**Zone A Member**  
**August 2008**

**Charles Shuttleworth**  
**Zone A Member**  
**August 2008**

**Kathleen A. Gessner**  
**Zone D, HVRC, Chp #781**  
**Aug 16, 1949 – Nov 19, 2008**

*Treasure each other in the recognition that we  
Do not know how long we shall have each other.*  
.....**Joshua Loth Liebman**



**I'd like to share the message below that was sent to a chapter in Florida by a new member of that chapter. This is what keeps me involved with PWP and is encouraging when times get rough.**

**Regards to all, Lee Harris**

.....  
**"I am very happy and thankful for all the wonderful people at PWP this group has been very kind and supportive and have allowed me to get through the holidays. It would have been very depressing alone.**

**Thank you David**



# ***A Trip Not to Be Forgotten***

I just returned from a Mediterranean Cruise. What a wonderful time I had. This cruise was a fundraiser for PWP. Helen Lutz, who is the travel agent who sets up the PWP fundraisers had 23 or 24 people on this cruise. I think 10 of those were PWP members. Several were PWP alumni and several more were just friends looking for a good time. This is such a great fundraiser. Anyone can go to Helen and ask to take a PWP cruise.

This cruise started in Barcelona Spain. Judi Christensen and I left Portland at 6:30 AM for a 5 hour flight to Atlanta, a 4 hour layover, then a 9 hour flight to Barcelona. We arrived there at 7:30 AM the next day. We ran into Helen at the airport and so the three of us took a cab to the ship.

The 1st stop was Marseilles, France where ships have docked for 26 centuries. I went to Arles and Les Baux with 2 friends from Eugene, OR, LaShell Schmid and Marilyn Waff, both PWP members. There was a 1 1/2 hour drive through the beautiful Provencal countryside. We walked through Arles (pronounced All) and saw where Van Gough lived and painted. We saw the yellow restaurant or bar that was the subject of one of his famous paintings. We saw the Forum, and Arena. The Arles Coliseum was 2nd only to Rome's. We did not get to go inside the Arles Coliseum as we were there on All Saints Day which is a national holiday. We then went to the 17th century Town Hall and the Church of St. Trophime. The churches of this time told the stories of the bible on their faces. Most people of this time could not read, so the architects put the stories on the buildings. This beautiful church is no exception.

The next stop was a photo op for a panoramic view of the town of Les Baux (pronounce Le Bow). It has been around since 6000 BC. The Celts used this fort in

2nd century BC. Here we had lunch. Lunch was served in no hurry. People here tend to take 2 hour lunches, then have a siesta for a couple hours. The food was wonderful and left me with just enough time to hike to the top of the hill this town sits on. The top of the hill is the Citadel and Fortifications worn away over centuries of weather. From one side it looks like just another hill while on the other side there is a whole town. The streets are so narrow that cars cannot go there. Remember this is a town build while people still walked everywhere they went. From the top of the Fortification, I could see the Sea 1 1/2 hours away.

Day 2 stop was at Villefranche. My tour went to Nice and Eze. (no not Nice and Easy). These town names are pronounced Niece and Ezz. The bus drove along the French Riviera to Nice, the beachfront where the rich and famous around the world go to play. From the bus we saw the Franciscan Monastery, the Roman arena and the Negresco Hotel, we passed the hotel where Queen Elisabeth once stayed for months on end. We visited the old city where we shopped for souvenirs. Again, no autos drove over these streets they are too narrow. It was windy that day. I was looking in a small shop when a big wind came up and blew a shutter from a window above the shop. The shop owner ran out into the street. 'Oo La La!' He exclaimed.

The next stop was Eze which is a picturesque medieval village perched on a cliff face. Again no cars allowed. You must walk along the narrow cobblestone streets. These streets are really more stairs built into the side of the cliff. We were told that invaders tended to attack the towns and villages on the edge of the sea and not bother to loot and pillage those harder to get to villages perched at the top of a cliff.

Day 3 was the port of Civitavecchia which is very close to Rome. Rome cannot be seen in one day. The bus drove us around the city. The 1st stop was at a place called St. Peter's in Chains Cathedral. Here we saw Peter's chains (you know Peter, one of Jesus' 12 disciples) The miracle was that after the chains were broken they became whole again. These chains are on display here. Michelangelo's famous statue of Moses is on display here. This cathedral was beautiful as all are with painted ceilings and many statues. From here we walked to the Coliseum. I was impressed with the Coliseum at Arles. This one was huge making the one in Arles not nearly as impressive! Just imagine 50,000 people coming to see the gladiators at work, and no traffic jam. When the Christians took over, they stopped the gladiators and other activities happening in places like the Coliseum. Then this marvelous building became a working quarry where other buildings were built using the marble from this one. When we left here we went to Vatican City. We toured St Peter's Basilica, one of Christendom's most significant churches. Construction on this building began in 1452 on the site where St. Peter was buried. Here we saw Michelangelo's 'Pieta' which is a statue of Mary holding Jesus after his death. This was done in Michelangelo's youth. There is no other like it. Again, a beautiful building with painted ceilings and statues everywhere. Our tour guide was baptized here. Next came some free time. We rented a cab and traveled to the Trevi Fountain, containing the statue of Zeus. We all threw a coin in the fountain to assure our return to Rome. I was here with Ann Sigler, Patty Wilkes, and Judi Christensen. I have traveled many miles with these 3 ladies. I would never have imagined that I would be eating a pizza with them in Rome one day. PWP really has taken me places I would never have imagined.

The next port was near Florence. I did not go to Florence. I went to Pisa. Dave Tilton, a friend from Portland, Or and I

walked the 294 stairs to the top of the bell tower everyone knows as the leaning tower of Pisa. It was a great view of the surrounding area. (I have many pictures of narrow, winding stairs from this trip.) We also got to go into St John's Basilica, yet another beautiful church with many statues and painted ceilings. It, too had the bible stories written on the outside of this church.

What visit to Italy would be complete without a stop in Naples for a taste of the country side food and the trip to Pompeii to see this once great city? This tour took me into the Sorrento country side to a farmhouse nestled in the hills. Along the way, we stopped for a photo op of the beautiful (I know I use this word a lot, but everywhere I look it is so amazing) Bay of Naples with its blue, blue water surrounding the Sorrentine Peninsula. The people at the farmhouse explained how they harvest and press olives to make the best olive oil in the world. They also grow lemons and oranges here. I even saw some pigs. They showed us how to make mozzarella and ricotta cheese. Then we went inside and tasted the cheese, tomatoes, wine and water that are produced in this area of the world. We then tasted some of the local white wine and a liqueur called lemonchello. After this we went to the town of Sorrento for souvenir hunting. Dave Tilton, Laurie Morrissey, Dave's daughter Angela and her fiancé Nick and I all went to a restaurant for lunch. I ate the original pizza of Italy called a margharita pizza made from mozzarella cheese, tomatoes and basil. It was made for Queen Margharita and contains the colors of the Italian flag. It was a little different than a pizza here, but was very good.

Then it was on to Pompeii with the views of Mt. Vesuvius which destroyed Pompeii when it erupted in 89 AD. The whole tour of this ancient city was amazing. These people were very smart. They had a water collection system second to none. They had a Coliseum where the gladiators fought for their freedom. Gladiators were revered

like the actors of today. In fact we saw the house of the gladiator who had just won an election about 2 weeks before Mt. Vesuvius blew up. We were shown the fast foods of Pompeii which were sinks made of materials that would keep food warm or cold and could be served quickly to those who strolled from the Coliseum for a meal and maybe to rest in one of the many rooms around this once thriving city. We saw where people watched the plays whose actors were all men. We saw where the stage was above water with pots in to make the words resound so everyone could hear. We saw plaster casts of people found in the ruins, a child, a dog, and all showing signs of being smothered. Wow! After this we went to a cameo shop where we saw workers chipping away at sea shells to make perfect little (or big) cameo broaches, earrings and necklaces. What a job!

The next day was a day at sea. Boy was I ready for a break. It was a chilly day so not much going on up on deck. There was the fellow who carved watermelon into the depiction of Carmen Electra. He created a rose from an apple and an island from carrots and peppers. There was a bartender who could juggle the bottle of alcohol and glass. I've only seen this on TV before! There were 3 hot tubs. Many people spent the evenings at the casino on board and I went to a couple art auctions where I saw art work from the great masters.

The next port was the Island country of Malta. I did not know anyone on this tour but it did not stop me from having a great time. Malta was inhabited by the Knights of Malta, a very religious bunch of people. The first stop was a small fishing village of Marsaxlokk where we learned that fishing boats are painted blue, red and yellow and all have an eye at the port to guide the way. Next stop was to Senglea where we overlooked the Grand Harbor. We then went to Vittoriosa to see the exterior of many buildings including the Augerges of the Knights- the hospital, the Armory the

Treasury and various palaces, Fort St. Angel and St Lawrence Church. I saw the Inquisitor's house where many Christians were 'questioned' about how religious they really were. The fort had 3 entry doors so that when the invaders came and broke through the 1st door, there were knights to disarm them. If they broke through the 2nd door, there were knights to disarm them. They could not enter the city until they broke through the 3rd door. While walking along the streets (or sidewalks) we saw steps only about 3 inches high. I guess the armor worn by the knights was so heavy they could not lift their legs for normal steps so this village was built with very short steps. After this I boarded a small boat for a tour of the Valletta Harbor. Malta has no rivers, lakes or forests so they have water problems. Originally Valletta, Malta had a rule that people could not have plants that would require water. They now have plants that create drinking water from sea water.

The next stop was Tunis, Tunisia in northern Africa. This was probably my least favorite stop. Not that it was bad, just my least favorite. I was on this tour by myself also, but I ran into Dave, Laurie, LaShell and another friend Cindy Meador from Eugene, OR while looking at the bath house ruins of Carthage. I saw a field of rocks representing the new born babies who were sacrificed to the gods. We entered the Byrsa Hill Museum to see the remains of these babies in urns along the pathway to the Carthage Baths. The museum holds many statues and mosaics. It also holds bowls and utensils found in the graves around the Carthage ruins. From here we traveled to Medina, the old city of Tunis. There were small streets with store owners hawking their wares. Buy this for 25 euros, when it is obviously only worth 2. You have to argue well to get a good price for whatever you are trying to buy.

Then came another day at sea. We watched a guy sculpt a piece of ice into a horse head. The day was much warmer so many people were up on deck around the

pool enjoying the warm weather of this area of the world. We played the PWP game of chicken foot (or as Patty's sister Cathy called it crow's feet) while enjoying this weather.

The last stop and debarking was back at Barcelona, Spain. A dozen of us from Helen's group took the tour of Gaudi which ended up dropping us at the airport so we could get a shuttle back to our hotel. We saw Gaudi's great works such as the La Sagrada Familia Cathedral which has been being built for 100 years and is only 65% finished. We saw the park Parc Guell where he thought people would buy land and move here. He did move here living in 'the pink house'. The tour bus drove by several houses that Gaudi designed including the Casa Batllo whose outside looks like people in masks and one he designed for a queen who played the piano. When it was finished she could not get her piano into the building. Gaudi told her to learn to play a violin. After a drive through Barcelona we were dropped at the airport. We lugged our luggage to the other end of the place to board a bus to our hotel. After getting settled 5 of us grabbed a cab and headed back to Barcelona for a walk around the city. We started this adventure by eating some of the local cuisine at a restaurant in the port. Then we headed to La Rambla which is where anyone who is anyone strolls just to be seen. We walked through a market where people go to buy fresh items daily. There was fresh fruit, fish, vegetables, meat, candy, you name it, it was there. We saw the statue of Columbus a one end and the fountains at the other end. We saw the street actors all up and down the street. It was all very unique and very interesting. When we were ready to head back we found there were no cabs that held 5 people so we grabbed the subway which took us to a train. We took the train to where the fellow told us to take it (which was not back to the airport). We were told our hotel was just up a ways to the left and

we will see it as they point to their eye. (Remember these people do not speak English we had one person who could kind of speak Spanish.) We walked up and around and did not see our hotel. So we asked again and again were told go up and around and you will see it. Again we walked up and around and again we did not see it. We asked one more person who said the same thing and we said no, that is not our hotel. She said we had to get back on the train then, because this was the only hotel here. So we went back to the train station and caught a cab back to our hotel. What an adventure.

Judi and I were up at 6 AM the next day so we could catch the shuttle to get back home. We went to the airport and waited in line to check in. Then we waited in another line to get through customs. Judi made it through first and ran to hold the plane while I went through. We had given ourselves 2 1/2 hours for the airport and barely made it to our plane. This flight was 10 hours followed by 2 hectic hours in Atlanta customs where we had to stand in line once more to go through customs, gather our bags and haul them past another customs guy. Then we had to take them to yet another place to put them back on our plane and head to our gate. I think we had about 15 minutes to spare here. Then on to another 5 hour flight. We arrived in Portland at 7:30 PM. I was very happy to be home and very glad I was not Judi who now had to drive an hour to get to her house.

It was a magnificent holiday. I don't know if I will ever get to have another like it. I am very happy that I met all these people and I met them through PWP. These cruises that Helen gets for us are wonderful. If ever you can take advantage of one, I would suggest that you do.

*Lois Adams*



## DEAR SANTA...I CAN EXPLAIN

### A Single Parent's Perspective

Trust me... I made the right decision in not mailing the letter I wrote to Santa this year. The poor man has enough stuff on his mind right now for goodness' sake. And let's face it, with it being this close to Christmas, I figured I should cut my losses and wait until the beginning of the summer to drop it in a mailbox. The way I figure, by that time he'll have had enough time to rest following the big night and could use a laugh or two.

It's not that I asked for anything expensive or made some outrageous request. I didn't fill its pages with details of all the little 'paying-it-forward' good deeds I've done throughout the year. And I certainly didn't tell him about...well, let's just say that what he doesn't know won't hurt him.

I must have started that letter at least a hundred times. It's hard to know what to say when you haven't got a clue where to start. And then once you start, it's hard to know where to stop. Just when I thought I was happy with what I had written, I'd realize that it didn't say what I needed it to say or that I had forgotten to include something just far too important to leave out. And so I would crinkle up the paper and toss it into the already overflowing garbage pail in my office, pick up my pen and start all over again.

When you're a kid, writing to Santa is easy: you think about what you would like to have; you rifle through catalogues and watch television commercials in rapt attention; you pick up your yellow HB pencil and you write down what you have decided you simply must have, can't live without or

really, really, REALLY want. And voila! There it is, your letter to Santa.

When you're a grownup, it's not that simple. Even at a time of year as magical as Christmas, you can become mired in 'real life' concerns like mortgage payments and tax bills and holiday 'to do' lists.

Maybe it's the fact that my 41st birthday is looming on the horizon or that my girls aren't so little anymore; I'm not really sure. My calendar is full and my evenings and weekends are busy, but instead of rushing around to get things done, I am slowing down a bit and taking the time to enjoy the 'doing'. All I know is that this year I put up fewer decorations, sent out fewer Christmas cards, didn't buy as many gifts and I am enjoying the holidays more while feeling far less stressed. My annual Christmas Open House is still going to be wonderful, but I made the decision to invite fewer people this time and I plan on spending more of the evening mingling and less time filling trays of food and pouring drinks.

Even the fact that the girls aren't going to be with me on Christmas morning isn't bothering me as much as I thought it should be. I suppose that's the difference right there, isn't it... the word 'should'.

As adults, we all have the ability to make choices. I cried a lot during my first couple of years as a single mom at Christmas; in mourning for the memories that would never be created and all the Christmas mornings that 'should have been'. It took six years and a lot of tears but I have come to realize that *breakdowns* can create *breakthroughs*, and sometimes things fall apart so that other things can fall into place. Regrets are a waste of time: they are the past crippling you in the present. I have my moments but they are few and far between, and I have come to appreciate the fact that sometimes less is more.

One of my best friends is always reminding me that there is nothing as constant as change. I have often wondered why some of us can roll with the punches while others seem to live in the chaos that ensues when you resist change and continue to dwell in the past while you profess to be trying to move forward. It seems to come down to the decisions you make, the battles you choose to fight and the things you choose to let go.

It's tough to forgive and forget, but it takes far more effort to remain angry and remember. The irony of it all is that the more you let go of your anger, the less you tend to remember about what it was you were trying to forget. You choose your battles carefully and you hold steadfastly to the belief that the little voice inside of you

isn't wrong very often. You trust, but verify. You cry less, laugh more and love deeper. And you don't have a wish list as much as you have a list of things for which you are truly thankful.

I suppose that's why I didn't send off my letter to Santa. It seemed kind of silly to waste a perfectly good stamp sending out a letter that only had six words in it: Dear Santa... we're doing just fine...

*Kimberlee Taplay is a single mom of two girls and someone who has everything she needs when she is hugging them goodnight. You can reach Kimberlee at [athsoofthree@rogers.com](mailto:athsoofthree@rogers.com). Comments, suggestions and feedback are sincerely appreciated.*

## *Tips for Better Life – 2009*

1. Take a 10-30 minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.

2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.

3. Buy a DVR and tape your late night shows and get more sleep.

4. When you wake up in the morning complete the following statement, 'My purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_ today.'

5. Live with the 3 E's – Energy, Enthusiasm, and Empathy.

6. Play more games and read more books than you did in 2008.

7. Make time to practice meditation, and prayer. They provide us with daily fuel for our busy lives.

8. Spend time with people over the age of 70 and under the age of 6.

9. Dream more while you are awake.

10. Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.

11. Drink green tea and plenty of water. Eat blueberries, wild Alaskan salmon, broccoli, almonds & walnuts.

12. Try to make at least three people smile each day.

13. Clear clutter from your house, your car, your desk and let new and flowing energy into your life.

14. Don't waste your precious energy on gossip, OR issues of the past, negative thoughts or things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in the positive present moment.

15. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away



like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.

16. Eat breakfast like a king, lunch like a prince and dinner like a college kid with a maxed out charge card.

17. Smile and laugh more. It will keep the **NEGATIVE BLUES** away.

18. Life isn't fair, but it's still good.

19. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.

20. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.

21. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.

22. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.

23. Don't compare your life to others'. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

24. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.

25. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: 'In five years, will this matter?'

26. Forgive everyone for everything.

27. What other people think of you is none of your business.

28. **REMEMBER GOD** heals everything.

29. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.

30. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in

touch.

31. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.

32. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.

33. The best is yet to come.

34. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.

35. Do the right thing!

36. Call your family often. (Or email them to death!)

37. Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements: I am thankful for \_\_\_\_\_. Today I accomplished \_\_\_\_\_.

38. Remember that you are too blessed to be stressed.

39. Enjoy the ride. Remember this is not Disney World and you certainly don't want a fast pass. You only have one ride through life so make the most of it and enjoy the ride.



*May your troubles be less,*

*May your blessings be more,*

*May nothing but happiness come through  
your door*

# **RECYCLING FUNDRAISER**

*SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT..... MAKES CENTS..*

*HELPING OUR ORGANIZATION..... CHAPTER/RC/ZONE/INT'L*

***COLLECT USED CELL PHONES, INK JET CARTRIDGES, AND DVDS, WE NOW PAY FOR LAPTOP / NOTEBOOK COMPUTERS, MP3 PLAYERS, AND DIGITAL CAMERAS - ALL MANUFACTURERS ACCEPTED! WE PAY SOMETHING FOR EVERY ITEM - WORKING OR NOT! (SEE [WWW.ECOPHONES.COM](http://WWW.ECOPHONES.COM) FOR DETAILS)!***

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.

1. **DOWN LOAD FLYERS** at [www.Ecophones.com/Flyers](http://www.Ecophones.com/Flyers) and customize them with your Chapter/Regional Council or Zone information.
2. **POST/DISTRIBUTE FLYERS** to the neighborhood (members, family, friends, churches, businesses, etc.) and include in your newsletters.
3. **COLLECT** all brands of used digital cell phone(s), ink jet cartridge(s), DVD movie(s) / video game(s), laptop(s), MP3 player(s), and digital camera(s). Cell phones that are working or nonworking with cell phone batteries (no other accessories) and ink jet cartridges that are not damaged, reconditioned or refilled should be included. **DO NOT** include toner cartridges. If a cartridge is larger than the palm of your hand, it is not an ink jet cartridge.
4. **PACK** all items (minimum of 25) securely in a sturdy cardboard box, separating layers with newspaper. Make a list of items shipped with date of shipment and send to Lee Harris - address listed below (see Item #5)
5. **SHIP** (free). Labels provided via web site [www.Ecophones.com/Shipping](http://www.Ecophones.com/Shipping) or may be requested from your Zone President or International Treasurer (see below). Complete label with: Parents Without Partners with your groups identification (Chapter Number, Regional Council Number or Zone identification) return address: 2905 Fallston Rd., Fallston, MD. 21047, Contact: Lee Harris 410-557-7619.. Payment will be processed approx. 60 days after receipt of shipment. Call DHL at 800-225-5345 for pickup. **NOTE: AK & HI shipments are via FEDEX.** Call 888-777-6040 for information.

**SUGGESTIONS:** 1. Provide container for deposit of recycle items at a bank, office building, cell phone store, etc. Post a flyer on the container. Don't forget to get permission first. 2. Collect items at PWP events.

See additional info on [www.parentswithoutpartners.org](http://www.parentswithoutpartners.org) or contact Lee Harris at 410-557-7619 or e-mail: [leehrr@aol.com](mailto:leehrr@aol.com)



**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

## **Young Community Volunteers Invited to Apply for Do Something Awards**

The Do Something Awards, formerly the Brick Awards, are designed to provide recognition and funding for young community volunteers.

Do Something Award Winners receive a community grant, participation in a special award ceremony, media coverage, and continued support from [Do Something](#).

In the 2009 program, five winners will receive a minimum of \$10,000 in community grants and scholarships. (Only winners who are age 18 and under are eligible for a scholarship of \$5,000 and a \$5,000 community grant; winners age 19-25 receive their entire award in the form of a community grant.) Of the five winners, one will be selected as the grand prize winner, and will receive a total of \$100,000 in community grants, paid directly to the nonprofit of his or her choice.

Do Something Award applications go through two stages. First, the Do Something Award Academy (comprised of former winners) reads through all of the applications and selects the finalists.

Finalists are flown to New York City for interviews with representatives from the Do Something Award Selection Committee.

The five Do Something Award winners are announced shortly thereafter in Spring 2009. The grand prize winner will be announced in Summer 2009.

Visit the Do Something Web site for complete program guidelines.

### **Contact:**

[Link to Complete RFP](#)

Primary Subject: Children and Youth  
Secondary Subject(s): Philanthropy/Voluntarism  
Geographic Funding Area: National

**Looking for additional funders in the field of Children and Youth?**

[The Foundation Directory Online](#) allows you to search the universe of grant makers using 12 different search fields, including fields of interest, types of support, and

## **GRASSROOT TOPICS DEADLINE January 31, 2009**

### **PURPOSE**

To open and encourage dialogue between the membership at large and the governing body, the International Board of Directors (IBOD), on issues affecting the entire organization, the bylaws, or issues of general interest and benefit to Parents Without Partners, Inc.

All Regional Councils, Chapters and PWP individual members except member of the International Board of Directors may submit topics. The cut-off date for such topic submission shall be January 31. This deadline will allow for the publishing of the grassroots topics selected to be discussed at Zone Conferences. Topics submitted after the deadline date shall be selected on a space-available basis.

The final topics selected for discussion in Grassroots Session shall be sent to the Chapter/Regional Councils/Zones at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Topics and procedural information for the sessions shall be included in the registration packets at the International Convention. Final topic selection shall also be published in a publication of Parents Without Partners.

SUBMISSION FORM is available in this issue of the Single Parent Newsletter as well as the Web Site - [www.parentsiwhtoutpartners.org](http://www.parentsiwhtoutpartners.org) - go to the Member Library.

## **NOMINATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** The function of the Nominating Committee shall be to secure a slate of qualified candidates for annual elections and vacancies of International Officers during an administrative year, in accordance with policies and procedures as established by IBOD..

**ANNOUNCEMENT** - The election of the following positions on the International Board of Directors shall take place on Thursday July 9, 2009 at the International Convention of Parents Without Partners in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky - The Drawbridge Inn.

- International Administrative Vice President
- International Treasurer
- Int'l Vice President - Family & Educational Programming

The Nomination Forms may be found in this issue of the Single Parent Newsletter or on the web site - [www.parentswithoutpartners.org](http://www.parentswithoutpartners.org) - Go to the Member Library. Look under Forms

**SUBMIT ALL FORMS** to each of Nominating Committee Members

SueEllen Hayes  
1150 W. Winton Ave, Sp 556  
Hayward, CA 94545  
510-887-1767

Don J. Palermo  
96 Pen Creek Drive  
Webster, NY 14580  
585-671-0120

Ann Hanson  
3802 Craig Drive  
Flint, MI. 48506  
810-736-2770

**Parents Without Partners, Inc.**

**NOMINEE ELIGIBILITY FORM FOR INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

**NAME: (please print)** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATED FOR THE OFFICE OF:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In order to fully establish your eligibility for nomination, you are asked to complete the Nominee Eligibility Form and the Nominee Resume Form. Mail the completed forms to:**

**Original: SueEllen Hayes  
1150 West Winton Avenue Sp #556  
Hayward, CA. 94545-1428**

**Copies to each of the other Nominating Committee Members**

**These forms must be received by the above party no later than:**

- January 31, 2009, for Officer candidates
- petitions must be received by the 45<sup>th</sup> day preceding the first day of the Annual Meeting for Officers, by

**Please indicate that you have carefully read the following Bylaws and Policies by initialing on the line after the numbers 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

1. Article VI, Officers and International Board of Directors. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Article VIII, Nominations and Elections  
Annual election of International Officers and (Zone Presidents)  
Directors \_\_\_\_\_
3. Article IX Meetings, Conventions, and Conferences \_\_\_\_\_
4. International and Zone Financial Management Plans \_\_\_\_\_

**Please initial to indicate that you are willing to assume an active part in the conduct, affairs and activities of PWP according to Article VI.G. of the revised Bylaws. \_\_\_\_**

**Are you a Regular Member and eligible in Article VI.G. of the Bylaws? \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone (Home)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Name, No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Regional Council Name, No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership No., Expiration date on card** \_\_\_\_\_

***You must submit a copy of your membership card with this form.***

**Parents Without Partners, Inc.**  
**NOMINEE RESUME FORM**

Please Print

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership No. \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ Work: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Area code and number)

NOMINATED FOR THE OFFICE OF: \_\_\_\_\_

**PRESENT CHAPTER:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Name and Number                      City and State                      Zone

**FORMER CHAPTER:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zone                      Chapter Name and Number                      City and State

DATE ORIGINALLY JOINED PWP: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE TRANSFERRED: \_\_\_\_\_

PWP leadership positions (list chronologically, current position first for each level)

	Position	Date	Position	Date
INTERNATIONAL	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
ZONE	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
REGIONAL	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____
CHAPTER	_____	_____	_____	_____
	_____	_____	_____	_____

**PERSONAL BACKGROUND**

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Children (Number, Ages) \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Community Activities \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach additional sheets for any additional information  
that you feel might make you more effective in this office.



# GRASSROOTS TOPIC SUBMISSION FORM

The following format shall be used to submit a Grassroots topic to the Grassroots Chairman. Grassroots topics shall be sent to the Administrative Review Committee. Upon recommendation by the Administrative Review Committee, the Int'l Board of Directors shall then accept or reject each proposed Grassroots topic. The maker of the topic shall be notified by the Grassroots Chairman of the topic's disposition.

SUBMITTED BY *(include Name, Address, Phone #, E-Mail Address, RC Name and Zone\_*

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TOPIC: \_\_\_\_\_

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RATIONALE: \_\_\_\_\_

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*You may use additional pages if needed. Each Topic should be submitted on a separate form.*

*The maker of the motion should plan to be in attendance at the convention. If they are unavailable to attend they need to make sure that there will be someone there to present their motion and rationale*

***SUBMIT THIS FORM TO***  
***Jo Johnson***  
***Administrative Vice President***  
***2465 Beech Street***  
***Cuyahoga Falls, OHIO 44221***  
***[JJohn0727@aol.com](mailto:JJohn0727@aol.com)***

**REMEMBER DEADLINE**  
**January 31, 2009**

# **ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS OF PWP !!!**

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED in starting some very special projects for our current membership and future prospective members. We are looking for volunteers who have some time in creating flyers, articles and being speakers regarding various issues facing single parents on today's social, judicial, professional and academic worlds.

Some of the issues we may be looking into are listed below. We are not committed to just these topics but other topic that face the single parents and their children. If you have a topic not listed, please convey it any member of the International Board of Directors. We may not be able to work all issues at one time but we can keep the issue on the list for future work.

## ***1) Discrimination in employment against single parents.***

At present there is no law against this, except in narrow cases in which it can be classified as sex discrimination.

## ***2) Discrimination in tax laws against single parents.***

Numerous tax breaks/refunds are denied to single persons and single parents based on income level, but allowed to married persons/parents with the exact same income level. Exemptions for children and dependent care credits cannot be split or shared between divorced parents, but are either all or nothing, or are denied to both parents because they are pegged to other arbitrary classifications.

## ***3) Interaction with public school officials.***

Stigmas against children of divorced parents. Hostility of school officials to co-parenting or dealing with both parents. Electronic databases that cannot list two addresses for children. An entire system set up that assumes children have only one household.

## ***4) Interaction with Family Court***

Lack of privacy, personal business discussed in hallways, judges and attorneys who fail to explain things to participants. Lack of counseling for people losing their family, their house, their income. Inadequate funding for legal assistance (in particular, compared to other areas of the law). Hostility of judges and attorneys to deviations from the "model" custody order.

## ***5) Co-Parenting (perhaps too controversial for PWP)***

Despite mounting evidence that children of divorce do better when both parents remain involved in their lives, most state laws encourage the primacy of one parent, and discourage the participation of the other parent. Most states have "model" custody orders that specifies one parent has custody 85% of the time and has near exclusive authority to make decisions on behalf of the child. While model custody orders are theoretically mere samples, and their use non-mandatory, the Family Court system (attorneys, judges, support) are geared to mass produce the model orders and attempt to force all parents to use them.

Worse, there is virtually no follow up and the 15% custody contemplated in the model order in actual practice is not followed in many cases and it ends up being 98% and 2%. This situation is harmful to both parents and to the child. Perhaps the complaint I have heard most often in PWP is from women who never get a break from parenting because their ex-spouses fail to exercise their custody periods.

**6) *Offering Advice to other organizations/discussion groups***

A less targeted, broader approach would be simply to offer advice to newly divorced or soon to be divorced single parents on any issue, based on our wisdom collected in countless conversations over the years with our members discussing their personal situations.

**7). *Prevention of Underage Use of Alcohol -***

Partnering with M.A.D.D. on this could not only help our members and children but bring greater recognition to Parents Without Partners as an organization that provides educational information for the benefit of its members. Major auto insurance companies, legislatures, and many different agencies are concerned about this topic as well.

**8). *Childhood Obesity***

This is a major issue that is plaguing our entire country. PWP could offer programming to educate our members on better dietary habits. Health Departments and pediatricians could be part of the program development.

**9). *Domestic Violence***

This problem often exists during times of marital problems that end in divorce, which not only affects the adults involved but their children as well. Perhaps PWP should consider developing programs and/or working with various agencies to help our members and their children recover

Please think about the various subjects listed and volunteer to help us in helping other single parents around the country. In Canada and perhaps around the world address these concerns. You can contact any member of the International Board of Directors – all of their phone numbers and e-mails are listed in the front of this newsletter.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR INPUT AND KNOWLEDGE**



**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Shelby Chapter #555**

For

**PUBLISHING THE FIRST 2009 CONVENTION FLYER**

in their Chapter Newsletter

*noted by SP Editor*

# We Will Survive

**50<sup>th</sup> Convention**  
**Parents Without Partners, Inc.**

**July 8 - 12, 2009**  
The Drawbridge Hotel  
Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky

**Join Your Friends**  
in celebrating the  
50th Convention

Remembering the good ol' times  
Enjoying The Present

Looking Towards the Future

Start making your plans now to attend this convention. Have some specific fund raisers where the profits are directed toward the Chapter/Region/Zone budget line that says

**' INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION '**

Watch for more flyers on what is being planned for both the parent and the children

Register Early - Save Money  
**Registration Starts as early as February 1st, 2009**

Need more Information?  
Contact: Janet Gallinati, Int'l Convention Chair  
[jlq\\_48192@yahoo.com](mailto:jlq_48192@yahoo.com)

Parents Without Partners, Inc  
“Single Parent Families”  
2009 International Youth Program



The PWP 2009 International Youth Program will be held during the PWP 2009 International Convention at Ft. Mitchell, KY, July 8 thru 12. In order to assist with the expenses of the youth program's daily activities, the convention committee is asking individuals, chapters, regions or zones to show their support for the PWP International Youth Program by monetarily supporting an activity or selecting a particular day.

Please SEND your monetary donations to:

***Sponsor the Youth***

***2009 PWP International Youth Program  
c/o Judy Goodman, International Youth Program Coordinator  
P.O. Box 11803, Lexington, KY 40578***

Or if you just have Questions??

Contact Judy Goodman, 2009 PWP International Youth Program Chairperson

[jgood28692@aol.com](mailto:jgood28692@aol.com)



**Sell your product / service  
During the 2009 International  
Convention  
Drawbridge Inn  
Ft. Mitchell, KY  
July 8 - 12, 2009**

Display tables for rent  
From Wednesday to Saturday

**PWP daily rates: \$25  
Business daily rates: \$50**

Parents Without  
Partners, Inc  
**“Single Parent  
Families”**

*Display tables  
will be available  
8am–5pm  
Wednesday -  
Saturday  
July 8 - 12, 2009*

For More Information and  
Pricing

Contact: Diana Jett  
Tel: **(859) 255-2670**  
email:

[dianarjett@insightbb.com](mailto:dianarjett@insightbb.com)