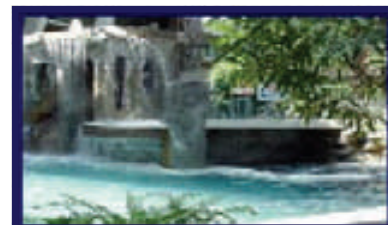
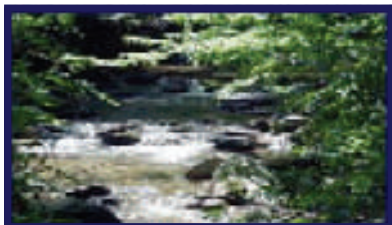




# TEACHER'S PET

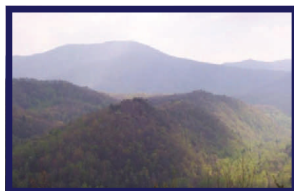
A PUBLICATION FOR THE PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF TENNESSEE  
March 2009 Volume 15, Number 1 [www.teacherspet.org](http://www.teacherspet.org)

## Professional Educators of Tennessee 19th Annual Conference



**Attention PET members!  
Now is the time to get involved!**

The time to make arrangements for this year's Annual Meeting is upon us. The PET Board of Directors has selected a wonderful place to hold this year's meeting. The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for the Professional Educators



of Tennessee will be held in the picturesque mountain city of Gatlinburg! The meeting will be from **9:00am to 3:00pm** at **Glenstone Lodge** on **Saturday, June 13, 2009**. As always, the

PET Board of Directors and staff are working hard to ensure attendees an informative, educational, and entertaining weekend. We are working exceptionally hard to see that this year's Annual Meeting is the best! Please do not miss this opportunity! If you are a new member or if you have never been to an Annual Meeting, please join us! It would be great to have a minimum of 5 members attending from each local unit. This meeting would also be especially beneficial for those of you who have no local The Annual Meeting is an ideal setting for the exchange of ideas among fellow PET members. Active participation from the members of this association has played a vital role in its longevity. Imagine if the

founding members of PET had refused to take an active role, would PET still exist today?

Here are some of the topics you can expect to be covered during the meeting: federal and state updates, legal activities, information on PET benefits, reports from association



leaders and special guest speakers. The registration cost of this year's meeting is still \$10.00 for all PET members and \$10.00 for the member's spouse. The registration cost for non-members is \$300.00.

Lunch will also be provided for all attendees which is included in the registration fee. All PET members are eligible for a group rate discount at the Glenstone Lodge. Simply call **800-362-9522** to make your room reservation and mention group code **PROFINDV** or tell them you are with Professional Educators of Tennessee and you will receive the discounted rate of **\$85.00** per night. You must make your reservation no later than **May 21, 2009** to be guaranteed this special rate.

**Take an active role in your association and get involved!  
Sign up TODAY!!!**

✂-----CUT HERE-----

Please contact **Mende Lovier**, PET Office Manager at **800-471-4867** to register with credit card, send information via email to **Mende@teacherspet.com**, or complete this form and send a check by mail.

Credit Card  MasterCard  VISA  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

If paying by check, make payable to PET. **Mail to:** PET  
810 Crescent Centre Drive, Suite 130  
Franklin, TN 37067

**Registration deadline is May 21, 2009.**



# FREEDOM OF SPEECH

**TEACHER'S PET Newsletter**  
is published periodically  
by Professional Educators  
of Tennessee

Corporate offices:  
810 Crescent Centre Drive  
Suite 130  
Franklin, TN 37067

**March 2009**  
**Volume 15; Number 1**

*TEACHER'S PET* is  
published for information  
to members and friends  
of Professional Educators  
of Tennessee. Views  
expressed in this newsletter  
are not necessarily those of  
the Professional Educators  
of Tennessee.

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**Email:**  
pet@teacherspet.com

**Phone:**  
(615) 778-0803  
(800) 471-4867

**Fax:**  
(615)-778-0149

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

Whenever an education organization appears on the horizon that “looks different” from the already well established ones, it is expected there will be a clash of belief systems. Those of you who have been presidents of local PET chapters for any length of time should already be nodding your heads. It is also a given of when this “confrontation” will occur---August of each new school year.

It is always during this time of recruitment for membership in education organizations that the teachers’ unions dust off their long-standing diatribes of why teachers should not belong to the Professional Educators of Tennessee organization. Why do our opponents dislike us so? The mantras chanted in their teleprompted scripts are never the true reasons. In a nutshell, whenever a group “looks” different and challenges others to reexamine why they support the status quo, the lines of their comfort zone begin to blur and they may actually have to start thinking for themselves! As a general rule, people do not undergo change willingly and actually seem to resent it when others embrace that change.

Several such incidences occurred in Clarksville-Montgomery Co. this school year where union building representatives blustered about and stomped their feet as teachers distributed and shared information with their fellow educators concerning Professional Educators of Tennessee (which, by the way, is perfectly legal to do before and after the instructional school day). Usually, it is just a couple of incidences that our PET members have learned to ignore and happily go on their way telling as many educators as will listen about PET.

Alas, this year was unique in that a union member called Central Office complaining, an email was sent to an entire school by the building administrator and one of our members was threatened with trouble by the union building rep with an email supposedly sanctioned by the building administrator!

After receiving that email from our member, it was time to organize the troops! This many incidences should send a signal that Professional Educators of Tennessee is quickly becoming THE lead contender in offering the best benefits, insurance and legal representation in the state. A letter was drafted (with our legal counsel, Larry Crain’s approval) and sent to our Director of Schools. In this letter, a summary of our Constitution’s free speech rights, as well as state laws was outlined with a concern that apparently that information had either not been communicated to the local union president OR that the message had been communicated but had been ignored. The letter further stated that any further incidences would result in legal action from Professional Educators of Tennessee.

Within 24 hours, a response was sent to me that this message of free speech rights would be communicated in written form to the local union president and that teachers DID have the right to discuss PET before and after the instructional school day. This was an email sent by the director himself. He repeated that same message to me in person at the local board meeting that evening.

Time will tell what the impact of this letter will have on our local education association. The important thing to remember about this piece is that as a local president, one must come to the aid of its members whenever they are challenged. Members much know that we are ever watchful and ready to respond and offer assistance whenever it is required. This same message will also be sent out to all of our members here in Clarksville-Montgomery Co. for the new school year as a reminder that NO ONE has the authority to take away your right to speak freely.

By: Cathy Kolb

## FROM OUR EXEC...

It seems it is getting to be a part of my job to talk about some unpleasant things. In February, we had two members to die. In each case, the members of the family were not aware that we carried insurance on those members until we contacted them. In one of those cases, the death was by a traffic accident and the benefits totaled \$11,000.00. While that amount does not come even close to replacing the loss of a loved one, it does go a long way in taking care of those unexpected final expenses.

So many of our members only think of the professional policy which we carry on our members. That policy is generally called liability insurance and is the largest single expense that we have. Early on we decided to carry only the best professional legal/liability insurance that is available; therefore it is a greater expense than would be otherwise. It is more comprehensive and generally has higher limits than that offered through the unions or other associations.

Identity fraud and theft are among the fastest growing crimes in our country and you should also be aware that we contract for professional services to help you in this area should you ever need them. Unlike most other associations and unions, all the benefits [except the professional legal/liability insurance] are provided to all of our members through age 70. Our student members and retiree/associate members still have the same term insurance and identity fraud as do our professional members.

I sincerely hope that neither you or I will ever need these services; however unfortunately some will. Call us if you need help in any of these areas. Do not try to handle legal or other problems by email or text messages. When you need us, call 800-471-4867.

Walter Jewell

## IN MEMORY OF RICHARD PAUL SIMS

Mr. Sims was a beloved teacher at Northeast Middle School in Montgomery County. He was both a PET member and supporter for many years. We received the membership of a colleague he recruited the morning after the accident, which took his life.

His local PET unit has made a contribution in his memory to Camp Rainbow where he was a counselor. His wife was also seriously injured in the accident. Please pray for her, his four children, and the family.



1957-2009

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The book of Acts reveals the indispensable nature of prayer in empowering the early church. They did things like wait on the Lord, when persecuted they prayed, new avenues opened as they prayed, and miracles took place. So what does that mean for us? I believe it means when things are going crazy, we take the time to seek God for peace in the chaos. I believe it means when people are taking their shots at your faith, take time to pray. It also means ideas emerge that have never been thought of when we pray. Last but not least when we pray God moves, which is always a good thing.

P – Persistent – Be persistent in prayer, don't give up.

R – Respect – Respect the Father He has a way.

A – Attitude – Have the right Attitude.

Y – Yield – Yield to God, His way is best.

Acts 2:42- "they continued steadfast...in prayers".

Brian Wiesinger

## EXTENDING OUR CONGRATULATIONS

We would like to congratulate PET Board Member, Dewey Esquinance and his students, who presented a safe driving project to the House Judiciary Committee in Nashville on February 18, 2009. The project has been picked by State Farm and the National Youth Leadership Council as one of the top 10 projects in the nation through State Farm's Project Ignition Program. They will also be presenting and competing at the National Youth Leadership Council National Conference in Nashville from March 18-21. If you would like to see the presentation, it has been archived online at: <http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/videowrapper/default.aspx?CommID=870010>.



The Professional Educators of Tennessee would also like to extend our congratulations to Ms. Karen S. Anderson. On December 30, 2008 Ms. Anderson was inducted into Cambridge's Who's Who Executive, Professional, and Entrepreneurial Registry. She is a teacher in Monroe County and was recognized for showing dedication, leadership, and excellence in all aspects of education. Ms. Anderson has 29 years of professional experience and her expertise lies in teaching science, environmental education, and general education. She is currently responsible for teaching seventh and eighth grade science. Ms. Anderson also tutors students from the fifth grade through the eighth grade. Additionally, she serves as a grade level science chairperson and as a technology person for the school's website. Her desire to make a difference in the lives of children inspired her to become involved in her profession.

Ms. Anderson is proud to mention that she served as a communications and electronics technician for four years in the U.S. Navy. She was a finalist for the Teacher in Space Program and considers seeing her children leaving the classroom knowing science to be the most fulfilling aspect of her career. In addition, she received the Monroe County Teacher of the Year Award in 2004 and placed second in the nation for AIG's Earth Science Teacher of the Year Award in 2007. She co-authored "The Water Source Book" and has written a program that she utilizes in her classroom published in "The Social Studies Book."

Valedictorian of her class, Ms. Anderson received her Master of Arts in Educational Administration from Trevecca Nazarene University in 1990, her Bachelor of Arts in Education from the University of Tennessee in 1983 and an Associate of Science in Education from Hiwassee College in 1980. She is the co-designer of Bio-diversity Index of her county of East Tennessee and sits on the board of directors of Keep Monroe County Beautiful. She is a member of the Professional Educators of Tennessee, the Tennessee Students Against Pollution Club and a county coordinator for the science fair. A Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma survivor, Ms. Anderson volunteers for the Paralyzed Veterans of America and the American Association for Cancer Research.

[Http://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/karen-s-anderson-inducted-into-cambridge-whos-who-executive-professional-and-entrepreneurial-registry-81317.php](http://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/karen-s-anderson-inducted-into-cambridge-whos-who-executive-professional-and-entrepreneurial-registry-81317.php)

## IN THE NEWS

### DISTRICT IN COLORADO TO ELIMINATE GRADE LEVELS

A Colorado school district has decided to eliminate grade levels and instead group students based on what they know. The standards-based model, which allows students to advance when they have proved proficiency, is currently in use in some districts in Alaska but has yet to be tested in the lower 48 and in a district of this size and with this profile. The Adams 50 district has 10,000 students and 21 schools, serving a working-class suburb north of Denver. Two years ago the district was put on academic watch because of achievement troubles, and fewer than 60 percent of its students graduate on time. Superintendent Roberta Selleck, who was hired in 2006 to reform the district, says that current practice isn't working, but "in a standards-based system, time becomes the variable and learning is the constant. Learning becomes much more 24-7." The district has spent the year defining the standards for each level, training teachers, and working with state officials to create assessments, and students will take the Colorado Student Assessment Program annually to monitor individual and school-wide progress.

More information is available at [http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci\\_11280071](http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_11280071)

## IN THE NEWS CONT...

### COURT APPROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT'S SETTLEMENT OF LAWSUIT BY CHRISTIAN GROUP

A settlement was approved February 4 in federal court of a lawsuit filed in January by Liberty Counsel on behalf of Child Evangelism Fellowship of Georgia (CEF) against the Cobb County School District, which had a discriminatory policy denying equal access to religious groups. With a court hearing soon approaching, the District settled the case by agreeing to repay CEF the overcharged fees collected for use of school facilities, pay attorney's fees and costs, and grant

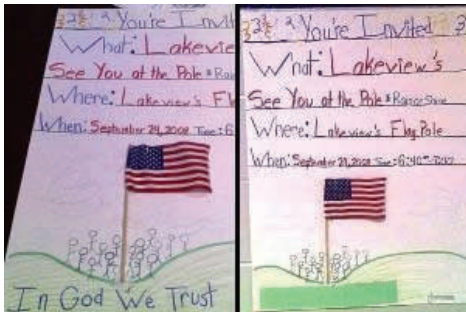
CEF equal access to facilities as is granted to similar organizations. The case was over a Good News Club. PET has had members in the past and may currently have members who sponsor Good News Clubs.

Article from Standard News Wire

See the entire article at: [www.standardnewswire.com/news/155483861.htm](http://www.standardnewswire.com/news/155483861.htm)

### ELEMENTARY BLOTS OUT 'IN GOD WE TRUST' STUDENT-MADE POSTERS CENSORED FOR USING WORDS OF FAITH

An elementary school in Tennessee, after successfully rebuffing an American Civil Liberties Union lawsuit over religious expression on campus, has nonetheless ordered the words "God Bless the USA" and "In God We Trust" covered up on student-made posters in the hallway. Administrators at Lakeview Elementary School



in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, told parents that the posters, promoting the See You at the Pole student prayer event, mentioned "God" and are therefore

precluded by school board policy and prohibited in the hallways as inappropriate.

Attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund, a legal alliance defending religious liberty, filed a lawsuit today on behalf of 10 parents and their children, seeking an injunction against banning private religious expression on student-made posters.

"Christian students shouldn't be censored for expressing their beliefs," said ADF Senior Counsel Nate Kellum in a statement. "It's ridiculous as well as unconstitutional to cover up these references to God and prayer - one of which is the national motto itself - on posters announcing a student-led activity."

Further, Kellum surmised, "School officials appear to be having an allergic reaction to the ACLU's long term record of fear, intimidation, and disinformation, despite a previous court ruling at this very school that students can observe these types of events on school property."

In 2006, lawyers from the ACLU sued the school to stop it from recognizing religious events, including See

You at the Pole and the National Day of Prayer.

In May 2008, a U.S. District Court judge refused to grant the ACLU's request.

This year, each poster made on personal time without the use of any school funds or supplies, included the disclaimer: "See You at the Pole is a student-initiated and student-led event and is not endorsed by Lakeview Elementary or Wilson County schools."

Nevertheless, the lawsuit states, the school's assistant principal told parents upon advisement from the principal and director of schools for the county - that Scripture verses and phrases mentioning "God" would not be permitted on the posters. Even "come pray" was deemed in violation of school policy for using the word "pray." With the date of the event only a few days away, rather than asking the students to make new posters, the school provided green slips of paper to obscure the offending words.

Attorneys from ADF contend the disclaimer statement on the posters was more than enough to release the school from any perceived endorsement of the "God" messages, and that burying the words behind green paper constitutes a clear violation of First Amendment rights.

"The Constitution prohibits government officials from singling out religious speech of censorship," Kellum said, "but this is exactly what Lakeview school officials did when they ordered these words to be covered."

By: Drew Zahn

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[Http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?pageid=90674](http://www.worldnetdaily.com/index.php?pageid=90674)

# RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE ANNOUNCEMENT

The special fall recruitment season **NOW** begins **April 15** and concludes **September 30, 2009**.  
PET members receive \$25 for each new professional member recruited during this time period.  
This is a great opportunity for you (\$\$\$) and PET (new members).



## How do I receive credit per application?

**PET Brochure:** Your name should be printed on the “recruited by” line.

**Website:** Your name should be listed in the “referred by” section.

**Phone:** New members paying by credit card must give your name during the phone call.

## RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE REMINDER

Every member should strive to recruit at least one new member during this recruitment cycle.  
Membership will continue to grow with your help!

## HELP PET AMEND THE TCA

The state legislature has legislation pending which would amend the TCA Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 6. The bill summary is “as introduced, prohibits professional employees’ organization representing LEA professional employees from preventing another such organization from disseminating information to LEA professional employees.” The bill number is **SB1289 and HB1380**. Although the verbiage of this bill is somewhat confusing, it does grant PET the legal right to disseminate information and places a legal restriction on the prevention of doing so by any local education association.

As a Tennessean and a PET member, one of your civic duties is to help elect the legislators who represent you and all of the state’s nearly 6 million other residents. Your role in the democratic process of government does not end after you cast your ballot. Sharing your opinions and ideas with your senators and representatives helps them decide what to do about the issues and pending legislation that affect us all. They value your suggestions and encourage you to voice these.

Please contact your state representative and senator to express your view on this very important bill.

### **Tips for contacting elected officials.**

- Contact your senator or representative about a particular issue before the Legislature takes action on it.
- Tell your senator or representative what effect you think a particular bill, if it becomes law, will have on you and your community. Be concise, but specific.
- If writing a letter, make certain to spell the legislator’s name correctly, type or print legibly, sign your name, and give your address so that they may respond.
- If you plan to call or visit your legislator, be organized and keep to the point, make an appointment, and make sure to have a single page fact sheet concerning your issue.

By: Crystal Smith  
Director of Communications

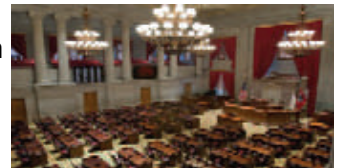
## IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT LINKS

<http://www.tennesseeanytime.org/government/elected.html>

This link will take you to the state’s elected government officials page. This page will help you find out who your elected officials are at the county, state, and federal levels.

<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/house/members/>

This link takes you to an alphabetical listing of all the members of the Tennessee House of Representatives. If you click on the last name of a member, you are taken to that member’s personal web page. Here you will find their Nashville contact information as well as their district contact information. You will also be able to see all the bills the member has sponsored or co-sponsored during the current session.



<http://www.capitol.tn.gov/senate/members/>

This link takes you to an alphabetical listing of all the members of the Tennessee Senate. If you click on the last name of a member, you are taken to that member’s personal web page. Here you will find their Nashville contact information as well as their district contact information. You will also be able to see all the bills the member has sponsored or co-sponsored during the current session.

<http://wapp.capitol.tn.gov/apps/billsearch/BillSearch.aspx>

This link will enable you to search for legislative bills, by the bill number in both the house and the senate.

# THE MOORE SCHOOL LAW REPORT

By: Dr. Richard Moore



Have you ever been asked to administer medication to students during the school day? This should be done by those that are trained and authorized within school district policies and procedures. A school district should have a set of guidelines for medication distribution to enhance student safety. Dennis Dunklee and Robert Shoop provide the following general guidelines for administering medication at school. More detailed guidelines may be required from the State Department of Health.

**A.** Be certain written requests from the parent of guardian and from the family's doctor or dentist accompany any medicine to be administered. This includes over-the-counter items such as aspirin, ibuprofen, and cough medicine. The doctor request form should be dated, include the time of day to be given, and the expected number of days. Demand any changes in the type of drug, amount of dosage, or time of administration be provided with new doctor and parent permission signatures. The medicine should be given to the school in the original prescription container.

**B.** It is best if a registered nurse or physician is responsible for overall administration of medicines in the schools. Administration could then be delegated to a licensed Practical Nurse or unlicensed staff person only after an initial assessment by the school nurse.



**C.** Try to limit medicines, if possible, to oral or topical medications, except in emergencies. Exceptions may include eye drops, ear drops, and rectal suppositories.

**D.** School personnel should not maintain supplies of over-the-counter medications on school property. This includes the athletic department. An exception is where a prescription is provided along with written permission to administer from the parent.

**E.** Schools should keep medicines in a locked container.

**F.** Schools should keep detailed records of medicines administered.

**G.** Schools should inventory all medications once per semester by a licensed health care person.

**H.** After each inventory, require parents to pick up out-of-date medicines or destroy them. Seal needles and syringes in puncture-proof container and dispose of properly.



**I.** Provide all local physicians and dentists with the school board-approved policy regarding administration of medicine and conduct of medical procedures at school. The school district's administration of medication forms should be made readily available to local health care professionals.

Dunklee and Shoop, *The Principal's Quick-Reference Guide to School Law*, Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, Calif., 2002.

**Quote:** "A true physician is one that loves life more than himself."

Richard Moore

Good day,  
Richard Moore

## WOULD YOU GRADUATE?

What if this was the only question on the exam to pass high school English and earn your diploma? Would you graduate?

What nine letter word in the English language is still a word when each of the nine letters is removed one by one?

Take a few minutes to try and come up with a nine letter word that fits the bill. Give up? Watch the video online at: <http://g33klite.com/index.php/facts/general/519-nine-letter-word-riddle>.

# CHOOSE YOUR LEADERSHIP

This announcement is to solicit nominations for the Professional Educators of Tennessee State Board of Directors.

Each member nominated will be screened to see if the candidate is qualified under our bylaws for election. Those who meet the qualifications will be contacted for permission to place their name on the ballot.

**Qualifications:**

**D-2** *The board of directors shall be composed of nine class one (Professional) members, who have been members for at least the two full preceding years, and shall be elected by class one members.*

**D-4-b** *No more than one member of the board of directors shall be from any one local unit or potential local unit.*

[ In accordance with D-4-b, no nominations from Colleges/Universities, Davidson County, Sullivan County, Putnam County, Knox County, or Maury County are eligible this year.]

There is no part of the bylaws, which prohibits a member of the board from being elected to another term. Those members of the board of directors whose terms will expire in 2009 are:

**Dewey Esquinance**

**Cathy Kolb**

**Charles Mike Ridenhour**

**Polk County**

**Clarksville-Montgomery County**

**Campbell County**

Mail to: PET - Nominations  
810 Crescent Centre Dr.  
Suite 130  
Franklin, TN 37067

**Nominations must be postmarked  
no later than, March 27, 2009**

I place into nomination for the board of directors of Professional Educators of Tennessee,

\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
name of nominee school system

\_\_\_\_\_ date  
member making the nomination



Professional Educators of Tennessee  
Four Corporate Centre, Suite 130  
810 Crescent Centre Drive  
Franklin, TN 37067

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