

The latest news & announcements from your region - FALL 2023

REGIONAL SPOTLIGHT

West II Region:

Welcome to the second edition of the Region Update Newsletter. Hope back to school is going well for everyone! In this latest edition of our newsletter, you will see that former principal and board member, Mike Allison, has joined the Regional Service Specialist team. He is a great addition to the team and will be working alongside Cindy Zajac. Congratulations on your retirement, Mr. Allison!



Thank you to the many members who were able to make it out to the Summit in August in King of Prussia. A special thanks to Jonathan Bauer, East Secondary Regional Representative, for opening his school to our members and conference needs. He, along with his district team, embarked upon building a state-of-the-art school in Upper Merion. Because of our members and participation, the conference continues to be a great success. As the conference moves to this side of the state next summer, we hope to see a strong West II Regional Presence! A special thank you to all our PA Principal Sponsors and conference sponsors for making it a special and worthy event.

As your Regional Representatives, we remain available to serve you and your needs as a leader. If you need anything at all, do not hesitate to reach out to us. As we start the year, there may have been some turnover or change in leadership at your school or district, please remember to keep us updated so we have an accurate record of your positions and can ensure continuity of your membership.

Also think of your administrative teams in the district, Curriculum Departments, Special Education Departments, supervisors, etc. Are they members of the PA Principals Association? Please have them reach out and share with them the benefits of being a member. We would be happy to provide anyone with a membership application to share!

We hope you have a terrific school year!

WEST II ELEMENTARY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

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WEST II SECONDARY REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Jerald Barris - Principal

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RSS UPDATE (*Regional Service Specialists*)

Welcome Back! Hopefully, your school year is off to a fantastic start. The beginning of the school year is always so exciting, welcoming new students, families, faculty members, and in many cases, resources and materials. Educators are graced with the ability to “begin again” as the first day of school gives each and every person an opportunity to kick off the adventures of a new and exciting school year. How lucky are we to have a position of possibilities that can change the future?

A year ago, I was excited to introduce myself as the Regional Service Specialist (RSS) for the West Region, working with the PA Principals Association in a new role, to serve you as principals, leaders and administrators. This past year was busy, productive and enjoyable as we welcomed new members to the association, provided district and regional level professional development, participated in Intermediate Unit meetings and gathered at local organizations to build relationships and provide networking opportunities among principals in the region. It has truly been a pleasure to meet, learn from and work with so many amazing leaders in Western Pennsylvania.

The PA Principals Association is proud to introduce **Michael Allison** as the second Regional Service Specialist for the West Region. Tall Principal or Big Mike, as you may know him, is the soon to be retired principal of Hopewell High School. He has been an active leader in the PA Principals Association, serving twice as president and also for a year as NASSP president. Additionally, Mike has been a leader with the WPIAL and PIAA for many years. I am thrilled to partner with him to serve Western PA. Welcome to the Wild, Wild, West!! Now with two Regional Service Specialists for each region, the Pennsylvania Principals Association reinforces our commitment to serving our membership.

As you begin your school year, please mark your calendar for the upcoming (FREE!) 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM professional development opportunities. Check out the Fall PD Calendar below for details and registration links. We hope to see you *virtually* on the **following dates...**

- **Sept. 12 - Power Hour – Roadmap to Retirement**
- **Sept. 20 - Power Hour - Nothing But “Net” Working (Networking Session)**
- **Oct. 10 - Power Hour – A Personalized Learning Conversation and Three Ideas: 1) Fork in the Road, 2) Be x+1, 3) Bias for Ideas**
- **Nov. 8 - Power Hour - Nothing But “Net” Working (Networking Session)**
- **Nov. 14 - Power Hour - Fierce Feedback**
- **Dec. 5 - Power Hour – Improving Leadership Through Simulations**

We are looking forward to another exciting year growing with you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to either of your RSS'ers (**Cynthia Zajac and Michael Allison**) for support or more information on how we can assist you and your district.

*Educationally yours,
Cindy and Michael*

REGIONAL SERVICE SPECIALISTS (RSS) - WEST REGION



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Michael Allison - Retired Principal
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FROM THE STATE OFFICE...

Three Intentional Actions for Peace of Mind

By Dr. Eric Eshbach, Executive Director



Your inbox is undoubtedly being filled with suggestions on how to make the 2023-24 school year a great one. Let me suggest three simple steps you can take to provide you with some peace of mind for the upcoming school year.

1. NETWORK! Being a principal, assistant principal, director or supervisor can be a very lonely job. While your district may have others who have held your role (e.g., high school principal), you are probably the only one or one of only a few who are currently doing this job. My success over 26 years as a school and district administrator came only because I had friends around the state and country that I could reach out to when I was perplexed by a challenge. Take time to become part of a network. The PA Principals Association is working to create these networks through a new virtual community. **The PA Principals Exchange or "The Exchange"** is a way to be able to network anytime in a safe, judgment-free environment. The great thing is that you are already a member. All you have to do is go to <https://exchange.papprincipals.org> and sign into your account using the same sign-in you use for our website (if you are having difficulty, please send an email to our Director of Membership, Anita Quagliani, at quagliani@papprincipals.org). You can then join communities from your region or your job classification and start the conversation by posting questions, invitations or comments and just getting to know people in a safe, virtual environment.

2. SEEK and PROVIDE GUIDANCE! Part of being a member of a community is to humble yourself to seek help when you are struggling with a decision or a circumstance. The Regional Service Specialists (RSS) can provide you with that help. All of our RSSers are retired, successful school principals. They understand what you are facing and know how to work through the tough decisions a principal makes. They also have a network of their own that can provide quick and powerful assistance. For those who feel comfortable where you are, please don't rest on your laurels. Become one of the people that someone who is struggling can call upon. Be a mentor, a guide, a trusted advisor. While I still have a cadre of people I call on when I need advice, it is nice to be one who is receiving the call as well. Whether it occurs on *The Exchange* or through a text or phone call, open yourself to ask for help and to provide help.

3. DON'T HIDE! No matter what the adage says, ignorance is NOT bliss! I know your email inbox is overflowing with messages from parents, students, administrators, teachers and well-intended organizations. It's easy to simply hit delete or set your spam filter to a level where you don't have to deal with the volume of messages. I would encourage you to take time to "whitelist" the domain [papprincipals.org](https://www.papprincipals.org). We often hear of people whose membership has lapsed because they never received our email reminders. A lapse of membership could result in not having the legal insurance you need if you find yourself in a difficult work situation. Taking the simple step of setting your filter to allow information from YOUR association to come to YOUR inbox is easily done. Failing to do so, however, could result in a financial loss as well as the peace of mind you need throughout the year.

I wish you the best and most peaceful of school years. We stand ready to assist you and are working diligently to bring the benefits of membership to you in an easy and practical way.

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2023 Fall PD Calendar

September through December

(Please click on the presenter's name below for a brief bio.)



There is no cost associated with the **Power Hour** sessions (4-5 PM), but registration is required to have access to the Zoom webinars. See below for details and links to register. The three-hour(9 AM-12 PM) **Grow 180** sessions are new and take a "deep dive" into specific topics. **The cost is \$199 for Members; and \$299 for Non-Members.** See below for details and links to register.

SEPTEMBER:

- **9/12/2023 at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - POWER HOUR - Roadmap to Retirement**
- Presenters: [Lincoln Investment Planning, LLC](#)
- [Click here](#) for Session Description.
- [Register Here](#)

- **9/20/2023 at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - POWER HOUR - Nothing But "Net" Working**
- Presenters: [Regional Service Specialists](#)
- [Click here](#) for Session Description.
- [Register Here](#)

OCTOBER:

- **10/10/2023 at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - POWER HOUR - A Personalized Learning Conversation and Three Ideas: 1) Fork in the Road Thinking, 2) Be x+1, 3) Bias for Ideas**
- Presenter: [Dr. Michael S. Snell](#)
- [Click here](#) for Session Description.
- [Register Here](#)

- **10/18/2023 at 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - GROW 180 - Essential HR Strategies for K-12 Principals**
- Presenter: [Bobbi A. Billman, SPHR, SHRM-SCP, M.Ed.](#)
- [Click here](#) for Session Description.
- [Register Here](#)

NOVEMBER:

- **11/8/2023 at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - POWER HOUR - Nothing But "Net" Working**
- Presenters: [Regional Service Specialists](#)
- [Click here](#) for Session Description.
- [Register Here](#)

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- **11/14/2023 at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM - POWER HOUR - *Fierce Feedback***
- **Presenters: [Dr. Michael Snell and Regional Service Specialists](#)**
- **[Click here](#) for Session Description.**
- **[Register Here](#)**

- **11/15/2023 at 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM – GROW 180 - *Personalized Learning***
- **Presenter: [Dr. Michael Snell](#)**
- **[Click here](#) for Session Description.**
- **[Register Here](#)**

DECEMBER:

- **12/5/2023 at 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM – POWER HOUR - *Improving Leadership Through Simulations***
 - **Presenters: [Dr. Michael Snell and Regional Service Specialists](#)**
 - **[Click here](#) for Session Description.**
 - **[Register Here](#)**
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IMPORTANT LINKS

★ [*The PA Principals Exchange - "The Exchange"*](#)

★ [*Act 45 PIL Offerings*](#)

★ [*Corporate Sponsors*](#)

★ [*News and Announcements*](#)

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