

Conejo Valley PTA groups win state awards

By Jean Cowden Moore
Staff writer

Several Conejo Valley PTAs have won statewide awards, including recognition for parent and student involvement.

The awards will be presented at the Parent Teacher Association state convention May 6 in Long Beach.

"Because we have so many parents involved in our schools, and because the district encourages that, we have an edge in getting awards like this,"

said Peggy Buckles, president of the Conejo Council PTA. "Any school could have gotten one if they had written applications."

The top winner was Westlake High School, which took three awards.

The school won a creative membership award for its campaign to recruit 2,000 members in the year 2000. The campaign, which actually runs for the 1999-2000 school year, as well as the 2000-2001 school year, has increased membership by 67 percent, Buckles said.

So far, the PTSA, which includes students, has 1,680 members — up from 900 last year.

Westlake High School also won awards for student and parent involvement.

"We have some parents who are very concerned, who want to do what they can to make the school better," said Pat Phelps, a former PTA president and member of the Conejo Valley Unified School District board. "It's never hard to find people to do jobs over there."

Colina Middle School in Thousand Oaks, which has a PTSA, too, also won a student involvement award. At Colina, students hold the same offices as adult members, have their own budget and choose their own philanthropies.

Meadows School in Thousand Oaks won a parent involvement award for its science day, which involved not only parents, but also volunteers from the community.

The school then shared the plans for the event with other schools in the Conejo Valley.