

The Paso Robles Education Alliance A Unified Voice for Excellence in Education

By Millie Drum

This devoted group of citizens knows first-hand that our public schools are seriously impacted by the lack of state funding. As former members of the Paso Robles Education Alliance (PREA), they are reorganizing the partnership between teachers and the community at large to benefit our public schools.

With clear direction and an attainable goal, the alliance will grant funds for additional educational resources and enrichment programs.

The mission of the PREA is to support and enrich the educational environment so that our children may thrive, grow and become proud members of their community, their nation and the world. PREA is a community based organization com-

prised of local businesses, parents and educators who share the enthusiasm for promoting academic excellence by giving additional educational resources to the local schools.

Since the need for items as basic as pencils, pens, and glue is critical, many teachers pay for supplies out of their own pocket, ask parents to do the same and rely on the support of PTA. As the PREA fundraising effort begins, culminating with a major event later in the year, the teacher's "wish lists" for materials and enrichment programs will be reviewed and fulfilled through a selective grant process.

Lead the way to an enriching learning experience for our children by joining the PREA in their Pioneer Membership fundraising effort. Three prestigious levels of



Back row - Traci McMahan, Wally Ohles, Darla Stephenson, Brian Thorndyke
seated - Jeff Railsback, Shelley Gurney.

membership are being offered for the select group of donors that wish to jump start the fundraising effort. Level 1 membership of \$100 is available to only 100 Individuals/Families. Level 2 membership of

\$250 is available to only 35 individuals doing business. Level 3 Membership of \$500 is available to only 15 businesses, companies or corporations. Visit www.GoPrea.org to become an exclusive Pioneer Member.

Members of the PREA include President Darla Stephenson, Vice President Brian Thorndyke, Secretary Wally Ohles, Treasurer Shelley Gurney, Media Relations Traci McMahan, and Business Liaison Jeff Railsback.

According to Thorndyke, "We need to make a difference, obviously. There will be a shortfall in funding programs within our schools. The changes will affect our child-ren." Stephenson says, "We want to keep it in the community. We have to take care of our own."

Send your contribution noting the Pioneer membership levels to PREA, P.O. Box 1290, Paso Robles, 93447. For information, call 866-620-0584, e-mail info@GoPrea.org.