I remember my first Kansas PTA Convention. It was in Wichita and I didn’t know anyone. At least I didn’t know anyone when I got there. In fact, I met more people who recognized my last name because they knew my husband through Scouts than had ever heard of me. But that was when I arrived. When I left, I had made new friends who had the same goals that I did: to protect the children of Kansas and to help speak up for their health, education, and safety. I learned and I laughed and continue to rekindle those friendships every April. I hope that if you are considering coming to convention in April that you will have the same great experience that I had.

There is so much going on at Convention this year. Amazing speakers, interesting and informative workshops, opportunities to have one on one time with many of our workshop presenters, our Arts and Awards Ceremony recognizing our Citizenship and Reflections winners, helping us with our bylaw changes, our Silent Auction, the PTA Store, vendor bingo, and networking with like-minded parents will keep you hopping. Come for the weekend or choose the Saturday pass and spend a jam-packed day with us to get the most information in the shortest amount of time. The cost is inexpensive and the return on this investment could last for many years. Invest in yourself and bring a friend. You will both enjoy being there.

The Call to Convention has been mailed to the school’s PTA Presidents, is posted on our website, and also has gone out electronically. Make sure to take a few minutes to check it out and find out about all of the learning opportunities. Not a member of a current PTA? Not a problem. Join our state wide Golden Oaks unit so that you can take advantage of this great training. So many attendees tell us that they come away from convention rejuvenated and ready to plan their next schools year’s events. We hope you will feel the same way.

See You In Topeka!!

Denise
2016 Kansas PTA Resolution - E-Cigarettes

E-Cigarettes: Health Risk to Youth

WHEREAS, e-cigarettes; also known, as e-hookah, vapor pipes or hookah pens are a battery operated device that is designed to deliver nicotine in a variety of flavors (coffee, mint or candy) and other chemicals in a vapor form instead of smoke known as vaping and are sold on-line, retail stores and mall kiosks which makes this product appealing and accessible to children and youth; (1) and

WHEREAS, research has shown that nicotine, an addictive substance, is in almost all e-cigarettes. The amount of nicotine that is in e-cigarettes can cause health concerns in areas of brain development, cognitive and behavioral impairments including memory and attention in adolescents, according to a 2014 Surgeon General Report; (2)and

WHEREAS, e-cigarette usage has dramatically increased and continues to increase among youth. Center for Disease Control reported that e-cigarette usage among has tripled from 4.5 percent in 2013 to 13.4 percent in 2014 among high school students and from 1.1 percent in 2013 to 3.9 percent in 2014 among middle school students; (3)and

WHEREAS, a survey from National Youth Tobacco found that youth who have tried e-cigarettes, 44% stated that they intend to try other tobacco products; (4)

What does this mean for you?

As a PTA leader, you can share announcements with the entire PTA, enable volunteer sign-ups, publicize events, and send out pictures and documents. You decide how your updates get delivered: either as individual emails, or you can consolidate them into a single Daily Digest. Either way, your group members will get automatic reminders about your events. That means more parent engagement and participation.

Kansas State PTA negotiated an exclusive member discount for all Local, Council and Regional units in Kansas: **60% off Pro Gold plan**.

- This plan usually costs $19.99 / month (or $150 / year)
- Kansas PTA units get Pro Gold plan for just **$7.99 / month (or $60 / year)**.
- This exclusive discount is valid until the end of the school year: July 1, 2016

To get your PTA started on Simply Circle visit the new portal at [http://www.simplycircle.com/kansas/](http://www.simplycircle.com/kansas/) - and you’ll get a special 60% off discount that will automatically apply when you sign up through this page.

KANSAS PTA has a new partnership with Simply Circle – KS PTA’s exclusive partner for member management and PTA communications.
Congratulations to the Citizenship Award Winners for the 2015-2016 School Year.
These students will receive their recognition in April at the Kansas PTA Convention. Let's give them a big round of applause!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level</th>
<th>Award Type</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
<td>Essay Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Aidan Hamer</td>
<td>Riverview Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Regan Wagstaff</td>
<td>Belinder Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td>Essay Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Greta Shechschulte</td>
<td>Brookwood Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth</td>
<td>Poetry Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Isabella Sieber</td>
<td>Trailwood Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh</td>
<td>Essay Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Gretchen Panovich</td>
<td>Westridge Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh</td>
<td>Poetry Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Zach Wallenburg</td>
<td>Westridge Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>Essay Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Hannah Silverstein</td>
<td>Westridge Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eight</td>
<td>Poetry Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Sydney Leslie</td>
<td>Westridge Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ninth</td>
<td>Essay Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Sandra Carrizales</td>
<td>Wyandotte High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Luke Bledsoe</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please join us on Saturday evening, April 23, 2016, during the Kansas PTA Convention, when we will celebrate our Kansas kids and their efforts in the Arts in Education. Our students have participated in both the Kansas State PTA Citizenship Essay Contest and the National Reflections Program. Our talented Kansas kids have written stories, poems, painted pictures, taken photographs, composed music, choreographed dances, and much much more! We will present the best of the best with the awards of Merit and Excellence for both competitions. This will be your opportunity to read pieces and see the fantastic works of art that have all come out of the minds of our future generation. In 2015–2016 we celebrated the Citizenship theme of, "I Can Be A Hero In My Community By" and the Reflections theme of, "Let Your Imagination Fly". It doesn't take much imagination on our part to know that these kids are our future heroes!

Vikki Mullins
Kansas State PTA
Arts in Education Chair
Q5: April is the Month of the Military Child

What is the Month of the Military Child? Starting with Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger in 1986, the serving Secretary of Defense has designated each April as "The Month of The Military Child." This is a month to honor the children of service members who also serve by making personal sacrifices and contributing to their family’s well-being. Nationwide, military installations observe this month by implementing special activities, events, and programs to honor our nation’s smallest heroes. Fort Leavenworth is honoring Military children with an event or special almost every day in April!

Why do Military Children deserve special recognition and support from the community? On average, military children attend between six and nine schools in their educational career. There are many social, emotional, and academic challenges that come with these moves. Over a decade of war has also brought stress and challenges to military families. Most Military Children have known only this culture. They often have spent many months and even years separated from a mom or dad due to deployment. Studies show that children with strong ties to the community are more resilient and more likely to thrive in the face of these challenges.

How can I show my support for military children during the month of April? Participate in Purple Up! For Military Kids on April 15th. Wear purple as a visible way to show support and thank military children for their strength and sacrifices. Local businesses can participate by offering special incentives to those wearing purple to honor military kids. Send a photo of yourself, your family, or your business wearing purple to Jessica.H.Brushwood.naf@mail.mil or post it on the Fort Leavenworth FMWR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/fortleavenworthfmwr

Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.

Are there ways I can show support for military children and teens all year long? Yes! There are a variety of things the community can do to recognize, support, and include military kids from simply welcoming them to the neighborhood to supporting legislation which provides better opportunities for them. The National Military Family Association has conducted studies and created publications specifically on this topic. What Military kids say repeatedly is that they need people in their community to know and understand what they are going through. You can find this information at http://old-militaryfamily.pub30.convio.net/publications/ For more information on the Month of the Military Child events or supporting military children, contact the Ft. Leavenworth School Liaison Officer @ 913-684-1655

Smart Snacks: Is your fundraiser USDA compliant?

Schools must ensure all foods sold to kids during the school day meet USDA nutrition guidelines. But what does that mean? And how do I know if my PTA’s fundraiser is compliant? Click here to learn more.

A new online fundraising option is now available for schools and participants to use in selling Fuel Up Cups to friends and family around the country. Fuel Up Cups are a fundraising opportunity for Fuel Up to Play 60 schools to use in earning money to support their nutrition and fitness programs, while also raising profits. Right now you have a chance to win a $1,000 gift card for your school in the BRAX Fuel Up Cups Fundraiser Contest. Contest runs through April 30, 2016. See Official Rules.

Fuel Up Cups is a non-food fundraising program, guaranteed to be USDA compliant, that delivers big profits. And it couldn’t be simpler. Fuel Up Cups can be easily activated by anyone at any time. Link up with your Fuel Up to Play 60 Program Advisor to start planning today! Don’t have a Fuel Up to Play 60 Program Advisor? – You can sign up today by visiting FuelUptoPlay60.com and click “Join.”
It Starts with School Breakfast

All kids deserve a chance to be great at what is important to them. Good nutrition, including daily breakfast, and physical activity have a direct link to ensuring a strong and high achieving generation of youth. Access to nutritious, affordable food and 60 minutes of play a day will continue to help kids fuel their greatness inside and outside the classroom. National School Breakfast Week is March 7-11, 2016 – a great time to raise awareness of the importance of school breakfast. **Breakfast in school can make a difference.** American kids spend more than 2,000 hours in school each year. In-school wellness programs, including school breakfast initiatives, can instill healthy habits for a lifetime and may be just as important as books in impacting student learning and achievement, read more here. Join the conversation by using the hashtag #FuelGreatness on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to show how school breakfast is important to your students, and to talk about how breakfast is offered at your school! Remember, eating breakfast at school can help kids be more attentive, behave better and achieve higher test scores.

These can’t miss webinars have everything you need to create a health promoting school, including:

- Hosting health fairs and Every Kid Healthy Week events,
- Engaging parents in school health, and
- Growing your school garden

[Register for one or all of them today.](#)

**Wellness Wednesday: Growing your School Garden**
Wednesday, March 9—4:00-4:30 p.m. ET, 3:00-3:30 p.m. CT, 2:00-2:30 p.m. MT, 1:00-1:30 p.m. PT
Spring is near so we have ideas and resources for parents, teachers, and students to incorporate into your school and/or community garden. Join us as we share lessons from successful school garden programs that you can begin to incorporate as part of your school wellness activities.

**Engaging Your Parent Community in School Health and Wellness**
Tuesday, March 15—2:00-3:00 p.m. ET, 1:00-2:00 p.m. CT, 12:00-1:00 p.m. MT, 11:00-12:00 p.m. PT
Parents are largely an untapped resource in the movement towards healthier schools. This webinar will feature success stories, effective strategies and practical pointers for engaging parents as powerful partners in your school wellness efforts. For school health teams and community members, or join this webinar to become a parent wellness champion.

**Get Recognized as a Health Promoting School: The Role of School Nutrition Staff**
Wednesday, March 16—2:00–3:00 p.m. ET, 1:00–2:00 p.m. CT, 12:00–1:00 p.m. MT, 11:00–12:00 p.m. PT
Are you a school nutrition staff member who is ready to get your school recognized for its efforts to enhance student health? Join this webinar to learn more about applying for the HealthierUS School Challenge: Smarter Lunchrooms (HUSSC: SL) initiative. The USDA’s HUSSC: SL is a voluntary initiative established for schools to get recognized for their efforts to improve food and beverages, teach kids about nutrition, and help kids be more physically active. This webinar will provide an overview of the initiative and take a deeper look at the application criteria related to school nutrition.

**Wellness Wednesday: Volunteers for Healthy Schools**
Wednesday, April 13—4:00-4:30 p.m. ET, 3:00-3:30 p.m. CT, 2:00-2:30 p.m MT, 1:00-1:30 p.m PT
Learn ways to integrate volunteers into your health and wellness initiatives at your school. Whether you currently have active volunteers or are looking to utilize the help of new volunteers, you’ll walk away with tips and ideas on how volunteers can provide an extra helping hand or a needed, valuable skill set when it comes to your health and wellness programming.

**Wellness Wednesday: Creating Walk and Bike to School Programs that Engage Kids and Families**
Wednesday, May 11—4:00-4:30 p.m. ET, 3:00-3:30 p.m. CT, 2:00-2:30 p.m. MT, 1:00-1:30 p.m. PT
Learn about Walk and Bike to School programs that will get your kids moving and ready to learn. Walk and Bike to School Programs are a great way to engage families and community members in your health and wellness efforts.
Kansas PTA Legislative Update – Feb 21, 2016

The Kansas legislature is approaching its first deadline for putting bills into play for the 2016 session – Turnaround Day, February 23rd. The bulk of education and children related bills to date are of concern to the Kansas PTA (see Legislative Priorities).

Dismantling Public Education. The approaching Turnaround deadline resulted in the advance of a particularly destructive piece education policy, without the opportunity for input from the public (including the Kansas PTA). Thirty Kansas legislators sponsored a bill that functionally bans of all K-12 education activities related to our state’s current education standards. The estimated financial cost of this ban is $9 million, along with the substantial disruption to learning and post-secondary preparation of Kansas youth (Wichita Eagle, 2016; Kansas PTA Issue Brief, 2013).

Several other bills have advanced through committees and chambers in opposition to numerous concerns raised the public education community (read KS PTA testimony here). Among these most alarming bills is the expansion of the private school voucher-type program referred to as the Tax Credit Scholarship Program of 2014. The proposed expansion increases the subsidy for religious, private school tuition, which is the equivalent of public funding for schools that may legally refuse to admit any student and refuse to comply with accountability measures. The proposed expansion also weakens the program preference for youth living in poverty and removes the state budget cap (Lawrence Journal World, 2016).

Another round of mid-year cuts expected. Kansas legislature sent an adjusted budget bill to the Governor this past week. However, the prospect of sustaining a balanced budget throughout this fiscal year remains tenuous. Last year’s promise to protect Block grant funding for K-12 public education has been revoked. The Governor has been given allotment authority to make targeted cuts to programs and services of his choice (Kansas City Star, 2016). The legislature is also expected to consider additional cost reduction actions, as recommended by Alvarez & Marsal (Final Report, 2016).

New school finance formula needed by June 30. The Kansas Supreme Court found that the current school finance method actually widened the funding inequity between school districts, thus ruling the K-12 Block Grants as unconstitutional. The Kansas legislature has been given until June 30 to resolve the issue, yet again. If the legislature fails to adopt an equitable means of distributing state funding for K-12 public education, school districts will not be allowed to open in the fall. Multiple efforts are underway to develop a new school finance formula, but with different stakeholders and towards different ends. A School Finance Framework developed by the Kansas school administrators and school boards has identified six key principles for a new formula, including the cornerstone: “Every student in Kansas’ public schools will have an equal opportunity to be college and career ready” (USA, KSSA, KASBO, 2016).
Kansas PTA Board Roster

Kansas PTA Board Roster
Kansas PTA Bulletin
This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org

State Officers
President: Denise Sultz, 913-709-3916, ksptapres@gmail.com
President-Elect: Monica Crowe, 913-961-5026, crowemonica@yahoo.com
Vice President Advocacy: Josh Halperin, 913-219-4176, jahalperin@gmail.com
Vice President Extension Services: Josefina Gutierrez, 913-787-6367, josiechod@yahoo.com
Vice President Member Services: Sheila Bunnell, 913-544-9072, bbykni@aol.com
Secretary: Rachel Henderson, 913-674-7117, Rhenderson082689@gmail.com
Treasurer: Dawn Lalumondier, 913-660-4763, kansasptatreasurer@gmail.com

State Chairman
Arts in Education and Awards: Vikki Mullins, 913-523-6609, ksptamom@aol.com
Bulletin: Tash Davis, 913-558-2211, tashbulletin@gmail.com
Bylaws: Debbie Lawson, 913-707-9998, debbie@burlislawson.com
Early Childhood: Julie Howard, 913-608-6652, kuslider@juno.com
Extension: Diana Fabac, 913-475-7789, fabacd@turnerusd202.org
Family Engagement: Patty Jurich, 913-334-6051, pas36@aol.com
Health & Wellness: Marley Sugar, 913-579-0884, msugar@midwestdairy.com
Legislative: Devin Wilson, 913-484-6743, ksucats96@yahoo.com
Male Involvement: Eric Snow, 620-704-0705, esnow@fathers.com
Marketing: Mia Wooldridge, 913-636-0191, mia@everestkc.net
Membership: Jose Gutierrez, 913-787-5775, josbermudez2000@yahoo.com
Military Engagement: Neileen Nelson, 913-908-6497, neileenjnelson@hotmail.com
PTA Store/Meeting Assistant: Jill Molina, 913-636-5601, jilemolina@gmail.com
Resolutions: Lauri DeNooy, 913-548-7277, Lauri.denooky@gmail.com
Resource Development: Dan Cole, 785-691-9358, dan@safe2nd.com
Special Education: Dawn Kindred, 913-449-7881, Drkindred70@hotmail.com
YAC (Youth Advisory Committee): Dawn Lalumondier, 913-660-4763, kansasptatreasurer@gmail.com

Region Field Service Representatives
Region 1: Pam Smith, 913-314-5880, smithpamela790@gmail.com
Region 2 & 5: Patty Jurich, 913-334-6051, pas36@aol.com
Region 3: Monica Crowe, 913-961-5026, crowemonica@yahoo.com
Region 4: Diana Fabac, 913-475-7789, fabacd@turnerusd202.org
Region 6: Dawn Lalumondier, 913-660-4763, kansasptatreasurer@gmail.com
Region 7: Jody Morris, 913-530-1444, Jnjmx3@gmail.com
Region 8: Jill Molina, 913-636-5601, jilemolina@gmail.com

Special Committees
*NLDC: Tammy Bartels, 913-416-3302, tammybartels@gmail.com
*Council Presidents: Allen Bradley, 913-208-8762, Abradley1492@gmail.com
Shawnee Mission: Tash Davis, 913-558-2211, tashjdavis@gmail.com
Turner: Jody Morris, 913-530-1444, Jnjmx3@gmail.com
*Office Secretary: Natalie Schweda, 785-234-5782, kansaspta@gmail.com

Kansas PTA State Office
715 S.W. Tenth Street
Topeka, KS 66612-1686
Phone: 1-888-311-5782 or 785-234-KPTA (5782)
Fax: 785-234-4170
kansaspta@gmail.com
www.kansas-pta.org

National PTA Headquarters
1250 N. Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (800) 307-4PTA (4782)
Fax: TBA
E-mail: info@pta.org
www.pta.org
If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office.
Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.