**2009 Kansas PTA Convention**

April 24 – 26, 2009

Lawrence Holiday Inn & Convention Center
200 McDonald Dr., Lawrence, KS

### 2009 Convention Speakers include:

- **Mr. Bryan Davis**, Director of All Pro Dad - Friday evening
- **Mrs. Alexa Posny**, Kansas Commissioner of Education and **Mr. Dennis Johnson** – Regional Director, US Census Bureau - Saturday morning
- **Mr. Rob Nuccio**, President and CEO of RV Nuccio & Associates, Inc. - Saturday evening
- **Mrs. Laura Dobbs**, National PTA Representative - Sunday morning

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**Great Workshops! Silent Auction! PTA Store!**

Network with PTA friends from across the state!

Convention registration packets will be mailed early January.

Watch your mail!
Happy New Year and Happy Birthday, PTA!

February 17th will be here before we know it. How have you planned to celebrate the 112th birthday of PTA? This is a time for us to let others know of our wonderful heritage – of the extraordinary work and vision a few courageous individuals had back in 1897! Their vision – their mission – the PTA mission has galvanized millions to work with one voice for ALL children. Our society has PTA to thank for kindergarten classes, child labor laws, hot lunch programs and so much more. This is the power of PTA! Thank YOU for the work you are doing to carry on this legacy. You are making a difference for EVERY child!

This is an important time for the future of your PTA and the legacy you will leave for future generations. The election of your nominating committee is a critical component. Your bylaws and standing rules will tell you when and who elects your nominating committee. Once new officers are elected it is essential that both the outgoing and the incoming officers plan for a smooth and seamless transition.

The Kansas PTA Convention Committee has been hard at work planning excellent training for you at the state convention, April 24th – 26th. We look forward to seeing you and other leaders from your PTA in Lawrence for the convention.

Thank you for all you are doing for the children in Kansas. By working together we are providing a strong voice for all children.

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

One Easy Resolution

Many of us will (try to) keep resolutions for New Year’s. Some of these resolutions will be to do things we’re already doing, but perhaps better, or at least more often. Other resolutions will be to try something new, to explore the world beyond the borders we know. One resolution will help you do a little bit of both—and help boost involvement in our schools at the same time. All you need is access to the Internet, and a little bit of time, literally whenever it fits your schedule.

PTA has always been exceptionally good about connecting people who are passionate about helping children be successful and healthy—but now we have technology that allows us to connect those people in a whole new way. I want you to resolve with me to embrace the possibilities of online social networking, because it’s not just for our kids anymore.

If you haven’t visited the PTA pages on Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, and Fotki, you haven’t seen the amazing online community that continues to grow there every single day. You’ll find postings and pictures and videos of people who are sharing ideas, inspiration, and lots and lots of information. You can even communicate with PTA’s leadership, including myself.

For anyone unfamiliar with the sites that millions of people (and most of our children) have been using, PTA is launching an entire series of introductory videos to help you get acquainted with social networking. Leaders can learn how to establish a Facebook presence for their local units, and how to reach out to their community and connect with the national office once they do. And absolutely anyone interested in supporting our nation’s children can learn why this new form of communication is so important, and just the few simple steps it takes to get involved.

So as you resolve to bring more people into your PTA this New Year, check out http://pta-tv.org (with the username “ptacommunity” and password “1pta1”—just click “enter” to watch each video) to see how easy it is to be part of our online community. And I’ll see you on Facebook!

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President
It’s time to elect your Nominating Committee!

Many of you have already started thinking about this – it’s time to elect your nominating committee. It’s very important to have this committee in place early to allow them time to work. They will want to have time to ask for persons interested in serving in an officer position to contact them, to investigate to make sure the individuals asked are the best person suited for the position and then present the slate to the general membership per the Standing Rules of your unit. If you have questions on this process, contact your Region Vice President or the state office.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

AWARD NOMINATIONS

• **Outstanding Student Award** ~ The purpose of this award is to recognize and honor an Outstanding Student from the state of Kansas. This award focuses on the accomplishments of the student and not necessarily on his/her service to PTA. Age is not a factor – any student Kindergarten through 12th grade may qualify. Any PTA member, unit, council or region may submit nominations. The nominee must attend a school that has a PTA unit. The honoree will be asked to attend the Kansas PTA State Convention to receive this award. Accommodations will be provided for the winner and a chaperone if overnight travel is necessary. Please read the application carefully. All PTAs involved in this application must be in good standing.

• **Outstanding Educator Award** ~ The purpose of this award is to honor someone who has made an outstanding contribution in the field of education that benefits children and youth. The term “educator” applies to teachers, principals, Para-Educators, administrators or superintendents. Any PTA member, unit, council or region may submit nominations. The nominee must be a member of a local PTA unit and if a teacher or principal, must be from a school that is affiliated with a PTA unit. The honoree will be asked to attend the Kansas PTA State Convention to receive this award. Accommodations will be provided for the winner if overnight travel is necessary. Please read the application carefully. All PTAs involved in this application must be in good standing.

• **Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award** ~ The purpose of this award is to honor someone who has given exemplary service to the children and youth of Kansas. Any PTA member, unit, council or region may submit nominations. The nominee must be a member of a local PTA unit and if a teacher or principal, must be from a school that is affiliated with a PTA unit. Please read this application carefully, all PTAs involved must be in good standing.

Applications can be found on the Kansas PTA website – [www.kansas-pta.org](http://www.kansas-pta.org), or on the 2008-2009 Summer Packet CD. Application deadline for these three awards is Friday, March 6, 2009.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services
PTA TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO SCHOOL WEEK

Family involvement in children's education increases student success in school--and has been at the heart of PTA since its founding in February 1897.

The week, February 8–14, is a special opportunity for schools to open their doors to all families and give parents a unique perspective on students’ school days, give educators openings to build positive partnerships with families, and give kids fun ways to share their school experiences.

Join PTAs across the country in connecting parents to children’s school experiences. Be part of PTA Take Your Family to School Week, February 8-14, 2009.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services

Kansas PTA Awards Ceremony

**Mark Your Calendars**

The time for celebration is coming soon, join us when we honor the youth of Kansas.

**When:** Saturday, March 7, 2009 at 2pm

**Where:** Mill Creek Middle School
8001 Mize Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas  66227

All winners will receive their invitation from Kansas PTA in February.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services

Kansas PTA Keys to Leadership Passport

Reminder: Don’t forget to send in your Keys to Leadership I and II form to the Kansas State PTA office by March 15, 2009 so you can receive your award and pin at Convention. If you need a Passport, please contact the Kansas PTA State office at 1-888-311-5782.

Shelly Pennington
Kansas PTA Leadership Chair
To better celebrate PTAs for implementing the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst–National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award and Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification are merging to create three new levels of recognition.

Three Awards

- **Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award** ~ For exemplary implementation of the National Standards, one local PTA will receive a monetary award of $2,000.

- **Family-School Partnership Award of Excellence** ~ For representing the best in one of the six National Standards, six local PTAs will each receive monetary awards of $500.

- **Family-School Partnership Award of Merit** ~ For demonstrating commitment to building partnerships, all local PTAs that apply will receive a certificate of recognition.

One Application

Submit just one application; no fees! All local, council, district and region PTAs in good standing are eligible to apply. **Applications for the 2008–2009 awards are due to the Kansas PTA State Office by 11:59 p.m., February 13, 2009.**

Please go to [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) for more information and the application.

**Beth Brown**  
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services

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If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office. Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.

KANSAS PTA BULLETIN  
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President: Jan Long  
Editor: Shelly Pennington

The KANSAS PTA BULLETIN is an official publication of the Kansas PTA (Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers Association). Subscription rate is $10 per year (six issues). Contact the Kansas PTA State Office to subscribe.

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Whenever PTA is used it also refers to PTSA. PTA and PTSA (Parent-Teacher Student Association) are registered service marks of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. National Parent Teacher Association is also a registered name, as is the National PTA and Kansas PTA. Only organizations chartered by the PTA may use its name.
School Funding - Why should you care?

Here is a crash course of the recent history and current status of school finance in Kansas.

During the 1990’s the level of state funding for schools was kept fairly flat, which caused the funding to fall behind because it did not keep up with the rate of inflation. At the time the strength of the economy created increased tax revenues and the legislature chose to cut taxes.

In 1999, the state of Kansas was sued by 19 school districts for not meeting its constitutional obligation to suitably fund public education. The case went to the Supreme Court of Kansas, which ruled the legislature should increase the funding, causing a prolonged showdown of sorts between the court and the legislature. Ultimately the legislature passed a three year school finance plan with increased funding in June of 2005. The new funding plan covered the 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09 school years.

Please understand that the fiscal year goes from June 1st to May 31st. When the legislature meets during its three month yearly session starting in January, they are actually making fiscal decisions that will not start until a year from the following June. They must assess the likely needs of the state in that future year(s)—starting almost a year and a half away—and make a guess at what the amount of incoming revenues will be from income, sales, and property taxes during that time to cover state expenses. It is better for the school districts to have multi-year funding plans, so they know that their budgets will not be jerked around from year to year, but it is challenging for the legislature to foresee what the economy is going to do that far into the future.

When the legislature increased the funding of school operational budgets in June 2005 by over 50%, it sounded like a phenomenal increase. But, this is important to know: from January 1990 to June 2005 (date of the passage) the rate of inflation increased 65%, according to the consumer price index, which the U.S. Dept. of Labor uses to gage the rate of inflation. That was how much education funding had fallen into the hole—when a 50% increase in new funding was not enough to catch the level of funding up with the rate of inflation.

In addition, the responsibilities of our public school system keep increasing without enough funding to cover those new responsibilities; for example, think of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. Or did you know the numbers of special needs students identified have greatly increased from their number in 1990? So, when we compare the responsibilities which the schools were fulfilling in 1990 to those of today, they are not the same – they are greater. But proportionally, the funding is not more to cover the increased demands.

Fortunately, we know our state’s long overdue investment in education has paid off, because improvement has been documented in increased student achievement and higher graduation rates. It is nice to know the hoped for results are occurring when the government spends our tax dollars. Kansas ACT tests scores have increased twice the national average is just one measure of many. (source: Kansas Association of School Boards, “What More Funding for Public Education Meant for Kansas”).

And those improvements help the economy. Regionally, Kansas and other highly educated states (Colorado and Nebraska) are the most economically prosperous. States in our region with low education outcomes trail economically, and this is despite the fact they have lower taxes.

An additional increase in state education funding has passed since 2005, but the rate of inflation has continued to increase, too, so it seems we are always playing a game of “catch up.” Last year the legislature was due to come up with a new multi-year school finance plan, but they chose to just extend the current plan another year.

Which brings us to this year’s legislative session starting in January. It is expected that major decisions will be made which will impact public education for many years to come.

What will happen? Will we have the means to continue to maintain and hopefully increase the quality of student achievement? It seems essential to the health of our economy. Will Kansas have the ability to attract, retain and retrain effective teachers and administrators? And what about early childhood education programs, and smaller class and school sizes? These things have proven effectiveness and all require more resources. (source: Kansas Association of School Boards, “What More Funding for Public Education Meant for Kansas”)

Protecting public education should be a priority. Since the next generation will bear the brunt of the federal deficit and other major fiscal problems created by the current generation, the argument can be made that the least we can do is provide them with decent educations to give them a fighting chance in the competitive global economy.

As PTA members, we can have a voice in support of public education. I think we have the responsibility to do what is in the best interest of our kids. At the state PTA level, we ask that, at a minimum, each PTA unit participate in the Kansas PTA Advocacy Week in February. KSPTA email legislative updates will be sent to aid you and your fellow PTA members in being informed about education issues and other issues affecting children—please take advantage. Working together we can have a positive influence.

Nancy Niles Lusk,
Kansas PTA Legislative Chair
New Year... New Opportunities

For PTAs, there is an important back-to-school period just around the corner: the return from winter break. January is a great time to recruit new members, as students are refreshed and parents are resolved to be more involved. New families may also have moved into your community for the start of the second semester. With so many chances to grow your PTA this January, I want you to have all the tools you need to run a successful membership drive.

Connect to parents’ resolutions to be more involved in 2009, and trumpet the new opportunities available in the new year! Let it ring forth that it’s never too late to join PTA and help strengthen the school community. We are America’s number one parent involvement organization, so let’s invite all of America’s parents to join us as we make every child’s potential a reality!

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA Membership Chairman
Correction to the National Representative for our State Convention

We received word earlier this month that Chuck Saylors would not be available to attend our convention. While we are saddened by this – not only because he is a great person but being the first male President of National PTA we thought he would be a wonderful draw for our male members to attend and meet him. However, another state that is celebrating their 100th anniversary is holding their convention the same weekend as ours and unfortunately we couldn’t figure out a way for Chuck to be in two places at once and since conventions that are celebrating a major anniversary are given priority – he’s going there instead.

The good news is that his replacement is a wonderful representative for PTA – Laura Dobbs. She has been a PTA member for more than 15 years. She was elected in June 2007 to serve a two-year term as Member Representative on the National PTA Board of Directors. She currently chairs the Field Service Committee and previously served as Chair of the National PTA Bylaws and Policy Committee and a member of the Strategic Planning Committee.

Laura served as president of the Georgia PTA (2005-2007) and during that time represented the Georgia PTA on the National Council of States and was elected to serve on the National PTA Board of Directors. In addition to her role on the Georgia State PTA board and committees, she has held numerous council and local PTA leadership roles.

We will look forward to introducing you to Laura.

See you at convention.

Patty Jurich
Kansas PTA Secretary and 2009 Convention Chairman
Frequently Asked Questions About Convention

What is Convention?
Convention serves as Kansas PTA’s annual business meeting where members gather to vote on resolutions and legislative priorities, attend workshops and training sessions, and gather new program and fundraising ideas. You will also be able to vote on the new 2009-2011 State Officers and Region VP’s. Our members include parents, teachers, students and administrators from every area of Kansas. Delegates to Convention include PTA leaders from across Kansas representing more than 30,000 members statewide.

What can I expect?
Attendees can expect to visit with more than 20 different vendors and organizations showcasing their products & services and presenting new program and fundraising ideas that you can take back to your local PTAs. You will be able to attend 5 of the twenty different workshops being presented. Workshops on Leadership Development, Advocacy, Parent Involvement, Safety, Health & Wellness, Membership, and Programs will be offered. You can also participate in an OMDR Plus Lab during the convention. You will have the opportunity to meet and talk with our representative from National PTA, Laura Dobbs who is a member of the National PTA Board of Directors. This is your chance to network with delegates from other Kansas schools in one place.

What is the purpose of convention?
Convention is the place to gain knowledge to help your PTA, develop your leadership skills, create successful PTA Program’s, network, vote on legislative priorities and resolutions, and gather new fundraising ideas. It is your opportunity to enjoy PTA successes, friendships, be inspired, and have fun!

Is convention a PTA expense?
Convention is a legitimate and important PTA budget expense. It offers valuable PTA professional development and leadership training for the future success of your PTA. Convention is the most valuable investment your PTA can make. By sending delegates to convention your PTA voice is heard!

Who should attend convention?
All 30,000 Kansas PTA members are invited and encouraged to attend convention! Every unit should send delegates to represent them and to gather materials, ideas and knowledge they can bring back and share. The experience of participating in exciting workshops, listening to terrific speakers and conversing with other PTA delegates will leave you refreshed and renewed. You will walk away from convention with ideas, information and exciting possibilities for next year. Current and future PTA leaders, including student leaders will not want to miss this!! Be one of the many delegates attending this year!

What do I need to bring?
Bring your PTA membership card and ID. Voting delegates will be issued a voting card. If you are planning to shop at the PTA Store, your personal, local or council PTA checkbook or cash will be accepted. Voting delegates must present a credential card along with their membership card at registration in order to vote. Each local PTA is entitled to be represented by its President and one delegate for every 25 members, or major fraction thereof, in good standing as of March 1st.

What do I wear?
Dress is business casual and casual. The program is full and you will be very busy. Remember to bring a lightweight jacket or sweater for the changing temperatures in the meeting rooms, which tend to be cool.

Your Advance Registration Includes:
- Special “Just For Me” Events
- Friday Kick Off Party
- Dollar for Scholars Silent Auction
- Inspiring Keynote Presentation
- Special Guest Speakers
- General Sessions
- All Workshops
- Exhibit Hall Access
- Presidents’ Reception
- OMDR Plus Lab
- Doughnuts with Dad
- Annual Walk for Healthy Kids
- Convention tote bag
- Chance for Door Prizes

Patty Jurich
Kansas PTA Secretary and 2009 Convention Chairman
Kansas PTA Citizenship Program

Kansas PTA sponsors this program for students in the 5th – 9th grades. There are two categories: essay and poetry. The theme changes each year, but is designed to encourage students to think about good citizenship. The content of the piece could encompass an event that has happened in the past, what is currently happening or something in the future that will make a positive impact on the community or the world.

The theme for the 2008 – 2009 school year is:

“To Be a Good Citizen Means to...”

Delegates:

Local Unit Chairman Tuesday, January 6, 2009
Council President** Tuesday, January 20, 2009
Regional Vice President Tuesday, January 27, 2009
State Chairman Tuesday, February 10, 2009

**If your unit is not part of a Council – submit entries to your Regional Vice President.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services

Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants

A limited number of matching grants of up to $1,000 are awarded each year to local PTAs for student-centered programs focused on arts education. Special consideration is given to programs that reach large numbers of students, especially students who are at risk. At risk is the term applied to children whose environmental, familial, and/or socioeconomic situation may affect their academic success or ability to learn.

The grant program complements PTA’s long-standing commitment to quality arts education in public schools by providing funds to local PTAs to establish or enhance school arts programs in one or more arts areas: visual arts, photography, music (including dance), and literature (including theater). Local PTAs must submit complete applications and provide funds that match the amount they are requesting from the national PTA organization.

The application deadline to National PTA is May 1, 2009. Please go to www.pta.org for more information and the application.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services

PTA Unit Presidents and Treasurers...........Has your PTA filed a Form 990 yet?

This is the year that all non-profits (that includes PTAs) must file some type of Form 990 with the IRS. It is never too late. We are here to help you. If you haven’t filed some type of Form 990 with the IRS, please contact Sharon Rakos at 913-708-5501 or e-mail srakos@kc.rr.com as soon as possible.
The following is an interview with the State Extension Chairman, Diana Fabac. I wanted to ask a few questions about what this committee is responsible for and why we need an Extension Committee. I hope you will also gain some insight about the important work that goes on in this committee:

**Interviewer:** So what exactly is the Extension Committee?

**Diana Fabac:** The Kansas State Extension Committee is a group of individuals that work with schools within the State of Kansas creating new PTA/PTSA units or assisting in re-chartering units that have gone dominant.

**Interviewer:** Why is this committee so important to PTA?

**Diana Fabac:** Because the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) mandates that all school districts must have a parent involvement organization, we are able to assist the districts by going to the schools and talking with the staff and parents about the benefits of having a PTA in their schools.

**Interviewer:** So what are these so called benefits you speak about?

**Diana Fabac:** There are many, but I will try to give you a few... First, it is an organization that advocates for children in the areas of education, health and safety. This is for all children, not just my own or those in my school. We work with parents, teachers and community businesses to provide the best possible education for our children. Other benefits are being mentors to our students, having a voice in children’s education, learning how to become a leader within our schools and community; having a presence in our schools which shows students that they can be safe and that we care about them.

The programs are probably the most important benefits that we have. PTA provides the National Reflections program which brings art to our students through drawing, video, dance and music. Some school districts have cut these programs and this is a way to bring it to our students. The Citizenship Essay contest, we ask our students to write an essay on why they need to be good citizens and the Three for Me program which asks parents to give 3 hours a school year helping the teachers and staff at a school.

There are benefits which we receive with our national dues which include discounts on items such as insurance, electronic equipment, travel and other areas. If you would like more information on all of the benefits that you receive with your membership, please contact your state board office or go to the KS PTA website.

**Interviewer:** How many new units have you started in the last 1 and ½ years?

**Diana Fabac:** My committee has started about 20 units in that period of time. I have been instrumental in only one of those units. You see, we have people all over the state request information on how to become a PTA unit. Once they have received literature from the state office, we have members in their area make contact with these individuals. The Regional Vice Presidents are usually the contact person. However, if the RVP is not able to meet with the potential new unit, the Council Presidents or other State Board members might meet with the school and parents. I cannot do this job alone; it takes everyone who is a member to assist in getting new units to join. Once they have become a unit, then we have a State Membership Chairman that takes over.

**Interviewer:** So how long is your term as Chairman?

**Diana Fabac:** Great question, my term is for two years and will expire in June of 2009. If anyone is interested in chairing this position for the next two years, they need to contact Debbie Lawson, State President Elect and let her know that they are interested. I have truly enjoyed this position and look forward to remaining on the State Board in another capacity.

**Interviewer:** Anything else you would like to say about the Extension Committee?

**Diana Fabac:** I would like to thank Jan Long, current Kansas State President for her confidence in me to be chairman of this committee. I would like to thank everyone who has gone to visit a potential new unit and/or started a new unit in the State of Kansas and special thanks goes out to Monica Crowe, Region VII VP and Beth Brown who have spent many a night away from home starting new units in USD 500 school district. You all are great leaders. For everyone else, Merry Christmas and many blessings in the New Year. Thank you.

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**REPORT FROM THE STATE EXTENSION COMMITTEE**

The Kansas State Extension Committee is a group of individuals that work with schools within the State of Kansas creating new PTA/PTSA units or assisting in re-chartering units that have gone dominant. The programs are probably the most important benefits that we have. PTA provides the National Reflections program which brings art to our students through drawing, video, dance and music. Some school districts have cut these programs and this is a way to bring it to our students. The Citizenship Essay contest, we ask our students to write an essay on why they need to be good citizens and the Three for Me program which asks parents to give 3 hours a school year helping the teachers and staff at a school.
Resolution – A scary word to most

Resolution. A scary word to most. It is a word with a powerful voice that can be your best friend. We all make New Year’s Resolutions. Your local unit can make a resolution by putting it into writing for their local unit or to send on to state.

Resolutions can make a big difference. It can make government officials take a better look at a problem before they vote on a bill. Resolutions show that there are people out there that believes there is a good solution to a problem.

It is an official way for a group of people to state intended action. It is an original motion that because of its importance, length, or involvedness is submitted in writing. It is then brought forward on the floor of your local unit general membership meeting, or at a state or National PTA Convention for wider adoption.

There have been many important issues that have been put into resolutions.

Each one of us can contribute an important voice to the resolution process, even if we are not actively involved in legislative efforts. Each one of us has an important standpoint on what children in our communities need.

There is work involved, but when you believe in your cause, it isn’t nearly as complex as it seems. You have the power to address a point, problem, or situation that affects children nationwide.

You need to encourage others to help:

- Resolutions are your opportunity to address problem, situations, or concerns that effect children and require serious action to reach a solution.
- It is a way to be heard. It is a way to bring the issues forefront and educate all involved.

Resolutions are an excellent tool to use when advocating a position with legislators. It says you believe in the issue, but also others. A resolution shows that you have done your research and/or have statistics to support your proposal.

Simple Process for Writing a Resolution

1. Identify and define your issue.
   - Develop a concise statement of the problem. Stick to one sentence.
   - Know what it is you wish to accomplish
   - Can you clearly articulate why your issue is important.
   - Set specific goals for addressing your concerns

2. Research your issue.
   - Do initial research, then present the issue.
   - If everyone agrees on the issue, continue your research.
   - Form a committee to help
   - Use the problem and turn it into a one page overview called a narrative summary.
   - In the strong Narrative Summary
     - State the problem situation that the resolution will address
       1. Cite the causes of the problem
       2. Describe the severity or the extent of the problem
       3. Explain how the proposed resolution will help solve the problem
   - Make the resolution you have in mind is in accordance with the PTA objects and policies.
   - Make sure the issue is not already covered by a resolution or position statement from your state or national PTA. Ask for guidance.
   - Explore whether the same issue exists elsewhere in your state, or perhaps in another part of the country. This will help to determine whether the issues is regional or national in range.
   - Plan enough time to collect strong background material. You will need to submit background data with your resolution.
Calling All Kansas PTA Members:

Throughout the past eighteen years, the Kansas PTA Silent Auction has grown. The Kansas PTA Silent Auction takes place every year at the annual Kansas PTA Convention. All proceeds from the Silent Auction go toward benefiting our future teacher educators within our state. As 2009 State Convention approaches, we want to encourage all Regions, Councils and Units to partake in this particular event. Through the years many individuals, agencies, companies and Units have put together various packages ranging from sports, entertainment, crafts, hand-made quilts and the list continues, to donate to the silent auction.

Help support our future teachers in Kansas by allowing us to provide scholarships. If you would like to partake in this event or need additional information, do not hesitate in contacting Monica Crowe or Lauri DeNooy, KPTA Silent Auction Chairmen.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you on this endeavor.

Respectfully,

Monica Crowe
Silent Auction Co-Chair
crowemonica@yahoo.com
913-961-5026

Lauri DeNooy
Silent Auction Co-Chair
lauri.denooy@gmail.com
913-548-7277

Jackie Waters
Kansas PTA VP of Advocacy
National Standard for Family-School Partnership

Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Standard 2: Communicating effectively—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

Standard 3: Supporting student success—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students’ learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Standard 4: Speaking up for every child—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

Standard 5: Sharing power—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

Standard 6: Collaborating with community—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

Raise Awareness

Continually educate school stakeholders about the importance of family and community involvement in children’s academic experience, and the vital roles they can play.

Stakeholders include parents, extended family members, other caregivers, teachers, school staff and administrators, community leaders, local businesses and organizations, and more.

Present the message about involvement not only to regular PTA and school audiences but also to local service and social clubs, town meetings, church groups, major area employers. Etc. Tell them how they can help improve your school, raise student achievement, and benefit themselves and the rest of the community.

As you talk about roles and opportunities, introduce the National Standards and the Building Success Partnerships process as tools for increasing involvement. By reaching out to these groups and individuals, you’ll build trust and ownership—gaining support for the school, the students, your PTA, and the work ahead.

Make effective family-school-partnerships a reality for your community and see the difference it makes for students.

Excerpt from the “Guide to PTA’s Building Successful Partnerships Process” – National PTA

Shirlyn Richardson
Kansas PTA Parent Involvement Chair
**Kansas PTA Board Roster**

### State Officers

- **President**: Jan Long, 1400 Louise Lane, Salina, KS 67401, 785-827-9996
- **President-Elect**: Debbie Lawson, 15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219, 913-341-0806
- **VP Advocacy**: Jackie Waters, 1417 Loring, Hasville, KS 67060, 316-522-0706
- **VP Extension Services**: Tammy Bartels, 504 S. Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66086, 913-417-7031
- **VP Member Services**: Beth Brown, 2400 N. 62nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66104, 913-271-5955
- **Secretary**: Patty Jurich, 6125 Kimball, Kansas City, KS 66104, 913-334-6051
- **Treasurer**: Sharon Rakos, 10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66221, 913-708-5501

### Region Vice Presidents

- **Region 1 Vice President**: Sheryl Peak, 2609 Coronado Street, Great Bend, KS 67530, 620-792-6427
- **Region 2 Vice President**: Nicci Waters, 220 Alice, Hasville, KS 67060, 316-554-8001
- **Region 3 Vice President**: Janet Wood, 148 Florida Ave., Salina, KS 67401, 785-827-8635
- **Region 4 Vice President**: Vacant
- **Region 5 Vice President**: Vacant
- **Region 6 Vice President**: Chris Akin, 4820 Millridge, Shawnee, KS 66226, 913-422-3756
- **Region 7 Vice President**: Monica Crowe, 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104, 913-299-3583
- **Region 8 Vice President**: Cynthia Jarrod, 9107 Reeds Drive, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207, 913-381-1543

### State Chairman
- **Arts in Education & Awards**: Vacant
- **Budget Committee**: Sharon Rakos, 10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66221, 913-708-5501
- **Bylaws Review**: Lauri DeNooy, 12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66215, 913-548-7277
- **Bulletin Editor**: Shelly Pennington, 310 E. Minneapolis Ave., Salina, KS 67401, 785-820-0200
- **Federal Legislative**: Jackie Waters, 1417 Loring, Hasville, KS 67060, 316-522-0706
- **Health & Wellbeing**: Denise Sultz, 9311 W. 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204, 913-381-7824
- **Inclusiveness/Diversity Leadership**: Kayla Crowe, 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104, 913-299-3583
- **Leadership**: Shelly Pennington, 310 E. Minneapolis Ave., Salina, KS 67401, 785-820-0200
- **Membership**: Beth Brown, 2400 N. 62nd Street, Kansas City, KS 66104, 913-271-5955
- **OMDR**: Marie Thomas, 22833 W. 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226, 913-422-7841
- **Parent Involvement**: Shirlyn Richardson, 2709 N. 13th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104, 913-371-4309
- **PTA Store/Membership**: Shelly Bunnell, 7028 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS 66106, 913-375-1652
- **Publicity/Media**: Vacant
- **Representative of Council Presidents**: Julie Howard, 134 N 71st, Kansas City, KS 66111, 913-299-4877
- **Resolutions Committee**: Jackie Waters, 1417 Loring, Hasville, KS 67060, 316-522-0706
- **State Bylaws**: Debbie Lawson, 15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219, 913-541-0806
- **State Legislative**: Nancy Niles Luik, 7700 W. 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204, 913-648-2616
- **State Extension**: Diana Fabas, 5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106, 913-375-1644
- **Website**: Robert DeNooy, 12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66215, 913-548-2254

### Consultants/Committee Appointments

- **Immediate Past President**: Laura Kaiser, 5222 W. 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207, 913-341-3078
- **Nominating/Leadership Dev**: Vicki Needham, 20918 W. 71st Street, Shawnee, KS 66218, 913-441-0110
- **Parliamentarian**: Ernie Goerend, 576 South Delaware Ave., Salina, KS 67401, 785-825-6503
- **Reflections**: Vacant

### Council Presidents

- **DeSoto**: John Gaignat, 5607 Brownridge, Shawnee, KS 66218, 913-422-1826
- **Kansas City**: Paula Fein-Falasco, 801 N. 83rd, Kansas City, KS 66112, 913-328-1256
- **Salina**: Belinda Rock, 927 Vassar Drive, Salina, KS 67401, 785-827-3565
- **Shawnee Mission**: Lauren Meyer, 14139 W. 84th Terrace, Shawnee Mission, KS 66215, 913-599-0656
- **Turner**: Julie Howard, 134 N. 71st, Kansas City, KS 66111, 913-262-9473

### Office Support

- **Office Secretary**: Sharon Julius, 715 S.W. Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612, 785-234-5782

*Not a board position.*

This issue of the Bulletin is available on our website. Emails are available on the website.
January-February 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

KANSAS PTA OFFICE & NATIONAL PTA OFFICES RE-OPEN 01/05/09

If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office. Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.

Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers
715 S.W. Tenth
Topeka, KS 66612-1686
Telephone: 785-234-5782
Toll Free: 888-311-5782
Office hours: 8-12:30 M-F
Fax: 785-234-4170
Email: kansaspta@gmail.com
Website: www.kansas-pta.org

January—February 2009

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Jan Long  President
Debbie Lawson  President-Elect
Jackie Waters  Vice President of Advocacy
Tammy Bartels  Vice President of Extension Services
Beth Brown  Vice President of Member Services
Patty Jurich  Secretary
Sharon Rakos  Treasurer

AWARDS CEREMONY
March 7, 2009
Lenexa, Kansas

IMPORTANT DATES

Kansas State PTA Convention
April 24—26, 2009
Lawrence, Kansas

FEBRUARY

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JANUARY

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1 New Years Day
15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday
19 Martin Luther King Jr. (observed) - National PTA Offices closed
20 Presidential Inauguration Day
26 Chinese New Year
31 Let’s Fight Flu Together! Clinics-programs end

1 Black History Month Begins
1 Super Bowl Sunday
1-2 African American Read In
8 PTA Take Your Family to School Week begins
14 Valentine’s Day
16 President’s Day—PTA Offices closed
17 PTA Founder’s Day
25 Ash Wednesday