2011 Kansas PTA Convention
April 29 – May 1, 2011
Lawrence Holiday Inn & Convention Center
200 McDonald Dr, Lawrence, KS

2011 Convention Speakers Include:
Victor Pacini, Author & Inspirational Speaker, Friday evening
Mrs. Laura Bay, National PTA Representative

$40.00 Early Bird Registration (postmarked on or before 3/15/11)
$45.00 Advanced Registration (postmarked on or before 3/30/11)

$50.00 Onsite Registration

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!
Support: The Stuff We're Made Of

We often point to all the tangible benefits of membership as reasons to join, and stay with, PTA®. There certainly are quite a few of them: from 501(c)3 status to insurance to the huge number of online and print resources available—free—for parents and leaders and anyone else who wants to support the education and health of children. But training, tax exemptions, and Take Your Family to School Week Awards have never been the real reason why people joined PTA. We join because we want to be part of a community, one that accomplishes so much on behalf of our kids.

Everywhere you look these days, you can see a need for stronger communities. We have an economy that is forcing millions of capable workers without jobs to rely on their families, friends, and neighbors just to survive. We have profoundly heartbreaking surges in youth violence that beg someone, anyone, to intervene. We have schools graduating fewer students and dropping more critical classroom and technical learning opportunities. After 113 years of bringing together families, schools, and communities, it’s clear that the PTA family has never been needed more in America than right now.

The PTA family works on behalf of every child in our country. You can see it when we go to Capitol Hill to help pass better child nutrition laws and when we go to the White House to work on volunteer initiatives that encourage more people to serve their school communities. But we work on a local level, too. In states and counties across the land, PTA is the one promoting parent involvement, helping school boards and parents come together, and the only ones with staff motivated not by profit, but by a mission to help your children achieve. We are more than a magazine, more than a chat room—we are literally in your hometown whenever you need us. Support. That’s what family is for, and what makes our communities healthy.

The solution to so many of our problems can be found by people simply engaging one another: not just online, but in homes, schools, cities, and statehouses. That’s how we can help our children, and where we’ll find the incredible strength we’ll need to be successful in our mission. I am proud of your efforts and look forward to engaging everyone in our PTA family. Thank you!

Charles J. “Chuck” Saylors  
2009-2011 National PTA President  
www.pta.org/chucksaylors

Membership is the vehicle by which we can promote opportunities and advocate for all children. A strong membership campaign and strong local leadership are keys to membership growth, and the keys to strengthening PTA’s power in meeting the challenges that face education and our children. Our children need our voices to advocate for their health, safety, well-being and quality education. When you join PTA you join a chorus of voices who are passionate and knowledgeable on all issues concerning children. Speaking on behalf of PTA for all children requires the strength of numbers. Join PTA, and join the voices of the members in an association over 100 years old who never stop advocating and working for children. Reach out to potential members - reach out to fathers, working parents, single parents, grandparents, students, teachers, administrators, community members and let them know of the association who is responsible for kindergarten classes, immunization programs, hot lunch programs, child labor laws, juvenile justice laws to name just a few. Our work continues today on family engagement in education, child nutrition and school funding for public education. Let these potential members know how adding their voice can make a difference for all children in our state!

Add your voice to the many delegates who will be attending the 97th annual Kansas PTA Convention in Lawrence April 29 – May 1st. Kansas PTA will provide excellent training workshops, resources, information and networking for all PTA members. Take back valuable information for your PTA and your community. Come join the learning and the fun! We will see you in Lawrence!

Debbie Lawson  
Kansas PTA President

Debbie Lawson
Kansas PTA President

Chuck Saylors
PTA National President

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97th Annual Kansas PTA Convention
April 29 – May 1, 2011
Lawrence Holiday Inn & Convention Center
200 McDonald Dr., Lawrence, KS

Victor Pacini, an inspirational speaker and author, will be our keynote speaker at the Friday evening Kickoff Event. You won’t want to miss this phenomenal speaker!

Kansas PTA will offer a wide choice of Workshops for the 2011 Convention. Tammy Bartels, our Convention Workshop Chairman has been working diligently to put together an exciting and informative list of workshops for you to choose from. There will be many topics including safety issues to leadership training. This year we are offering an Advocacy Track so you can keep up to date with the legislative issues involving education.

Delegates to the Kansas PTA Convention will conduct the business of the state PTA as well as hear from a variety of wonderful and informative keynote speakers. This is an election year so new officers will be elected for the 2011-2013 term.

Golden Oaks State PTA Unit will hold their annual meeting at convention. If you are a member of the Golden Oaks Unit, please plan to attend. If you are not a member and would like to support the state unit, please check the Kansas PTA website for a membership form or call the state office at 785-234-5782.

We have a wide variety of Exhibitors available during convention to help with your fundraising and program needs.

The PTA Store will be open for business during convention. There will be lots of items for sale!

The Dollars for Scholars Silent Auction has become a huge hit at convention! Each PTA Unit or delegate may donate an item (or items) to be featured in the auction area during convention. Items to be donated can be craft items, books, gift baskets, collectibles, and will be displayed for delegates attending convention to bid on.

Don’t forget our Wall of Fame … honor a PTA Member, Teacher, Community Member, etc. All proceeds go towards our Dollars for Scholars Program.

Don’t leave home without your donation, your checkbook, or your enthusiasm!

Come join the fun with your PTA Friends from across the state---as we Embrace All Children and work for a quality education for all children!

Make plans now to attend!!

Registration packets will be mailed to all unit Presidents in early January.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA Treasurer & 2011 Convention Chairman
**Frequently Asked Questions about Kansas PTA 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 2011-2013 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 and services and presenting new program and fundraising ideas that you can take back to your local PTA’s. You will be able to attend 5 of the 20 different workshops being presented. Workshops on Leadership Development, Advocacy, Parent Involvement, Safety, Health & Wellness, and Membership will be offered. You will have the opportunity to meet and talk with our representative from National PTA, Laura Bay 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 material, 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 light-weight jacket or sweater for the changing temperatures in the meeting rooms, which tend to be cool.

**Make plans now to attend the Kansas PTA 2011 Convention at the Lawrence Holiday Inn in Lawrence, KS – April 29-May 1, 2011.**

**Marie Thomas**  
Kansas PTA Treasurer & 2011 Convention Chairman
Speak Up for Children and the Future of Kansas
By Mary Sinclair, KS PTA State Legislative Chair & Nancy Niles Lusk, KS PTA Vice President of Advocacy

While any moment is the right time to advocate for children, our designated Kansas PTA Advocacy Day, Thursday, January 27, 2011, is an upcoming opportunity for us to speak with a united voice on behalf of children and increase our impact. Mark your calendars. On that date PTA members will be encouraged to contact their state legislators, either in person with a visit in Topeka, or by email.

What is at stake this legislative session? The short answer is all state programs due to continued budget shortfalls. The Kansas legislature has dramatically cut state funding to public schools, which has resulted in school districts making significant cuts to programs and staff. According to the Kansas Department of Education, our schools have lost hundreds of teachers, librarians, counselors and social workers. Hundreds of additional reductions have been made to noncertified staff, including teacher aides, paraprofessionals, maintenance, and administrative staff.

Cuts to efficient schools can result in large class sizes, less instructional support, fewer extracurricular opportunities to keep kids engaged, higher staff turnover rates, and fewer adults to support and mentor larger numbers of youth – all factors linked to increased risk for dropping out of school.¹

The costs and consequences of a weakened school system will end up costing taxpayers more in the long run in terms of lost income revenues, higher unemployment, as well as higher costs for crisis health care, criminal justice, and public assistance. The average net economic benefit of investing in proven programs that increase graduation rates is calculated at $127,000 per student, with the benefits 2.5 times greater than the costs.²

Why should PTA members speak up? Just think about who determines how much money school districts receive to effectively educate our youth. It’s not the superintendents, not the school boards, but our state legislators. Since the state is the unit of government with the primary responsibility of providing for our children's educations, it is they who will set the upper boundary on the quality of educations received.

The Kansas legislature will experience more than the usual amount of turnover come January 2011, including a new governor. The 2011 session priorities and agenda are not yet set – let’s weigh in now on behalf of children. The new members and new leaders of the legislature need to hear from us.

How can PTA members speak up? Let’s be a partner in building the capacity of our state to keep kids engaged in school and on track to graduate, promote children’s health, and create opportunity and equity for all children to achieve and contribute.

- Work to establish relationships.
- Contact your legislators by email, postal mail or phone.
- Arrange to visit legislators when they are home in your district or see them in Topeka if you can make it. Get a small group of parents together, if you’re more comfortable visiting with others.
- Ask legislators to respond to you with their position regarding school funding and legislative issues impacting our schools and children.
- Let your legislators know that you would like updates from them throughout the legislative session on the progress of educational issues and that you and other concerned parents will closely monitor their actions.

Together we can make a difference for the future of Kansas.

Useful Advocacy Resources

- Sign up on the PTA Takes Action Network at http://capwiz.com/npta2/ks/mlm/verify/

Kansas PTA Advocacy Day
Thursday, January 27, 2010
Add your voice to send a powerful message
All units please participate:
- visit legislators in Topeka on this day
- or contact them by email
More details coming via email update.
Contact Nancy Niles Lusk at 913-648-2616 or email nnlusk@kc.rr.com

2011 National PTA Legislative Conference
March 9-11, 2011
Doubletree Hotel Crystal City
Reagan National Airport in Arlington, VA / Washington, DC.

On March 9-11, 2011, PTA will hold its annual National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. Consider sending someone from your PTA unit to experience this inspiring three-day conference. Attendees will gain knowledge from workshops and participate in advocating for children on Capitol Hill.

Tuesday and Wednesday of the conference are dedicated to workshops which will provide advocacy training and in-depth analysis of PTA’s latest federal public policy priorities. Activities will include skill building trainings, panel discussions, and guest speakers.

On Thursday we will make visits to those who represent Kansas in the U. S. Senate and Congress. If you plan to attend, please let Kansas PTA President Debbie Lawson know at kansaspta@gmail.com, so we may include you when setting up the plans for the visits to the congressional offices.

Registration for the conference will be available on the National PTA website beginning in January 2011, along with information to aid you in selecting the workshops you wish to attend. You will need to register online through the National PTA website, beginning January 2011. This years prices have yet to be posted, but last year the registration fee was $250 and group rates of $197/night for a double room were available (if made by a certain date). Special reduced rates on selected air carriers were also available last year, if made through PTA’s travel agent.

Join with fellow PTA members from across the nation to speak for every child with one voice, as our motto says. It is a rewarding endeavor.
Preparing Youth for the Future

Leah Steinberg and Marcia Dvorak
Kansas Enrichment Network

Most Americans know Kansas by flying over it, driving across it, or watching movies about it. From the air, Kansas is a visual quilt of agricultural squares and irrigation circles. From Interstate 70, Kansas ranges from Dances with Wolves prairie to a Close Encounters of the Third Kind military base at Fort Riley. For many, Kansas is The Wizard of Oz, especially near Greensburg or Chapman, two towns destroyed by tornadoes. These images reflect neither the states’ strengths nor its challenges.

There are many examples of Kansas’ robustness. The small, rural community of Greensburg is a 21st century illustration of its peoples’ resilience. Leveled by a massive tornado in 2007, Greensburg has a new niche: it is rebuilt as a Platinum Green model city that serves as an environmental classroom for the world. Wichita is known as the Air Capital of the World, thanks to aerospace industry titans like Cessna and Boeing. Kansas ranks top in the Midwestern states for the most wind energy potential, and Cloud County Community College is one of a handful in the nation offering a degree in Wind Energy Technology. The 2009 Kansas Economic Report notes both wind energy and biomass energy hold great potential for future development. These instances highlight the state’s vast potential for science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers.

However, Kansas also faces daunting challenges. The K-12 STEM Education Report Card (2008) indicates only 2.4% of Kansas students (8.1% nationally) take the AP Science Exam; only 1.6% (4.5% nationally) earn a grade of 3 or higher. While 60% of jobs require STEM-related skills, only 20% of the current workforce has them. The Kansas City Star (Nov 2, 2010) noted “signs are emerging that the (STEM) momentum of the mid-2000s is slipping.” School districts pulled back because of budget crunches. Entries for the FIRST Robotics competition are down 25% from last year. Half the number of teachers attended the National Science Teachers Association’s regional conference in October 2010.

Kansas is at a crossroads. It can continue to be mediocre: Not great, not even good, simply passable. Or, it can use the lessons learned from rebuilding Greensburg and embracing green technology to increase STEM education and create a highly-skilled workforce with limitless possibilities. The need to build a system is now, and we believe Kansas is poised to leap ahead. In 2009, the Kansas Enrichment Network (Network) and Public Agenda (PA) began a series of community conversations around the topic of STEM identifying issues to be addressed and key stakeholders, including Kansas PTA. Better than that, the Network has commitments from stakeholders about resources they are willing to provide to create a new STEM-learning system.

Additionally, the Network has strong ties to a previously-untapped, yet critical, population: youth. The Network advises a youth-led group, the Kansas Consortium for Youth Voice, which will be involved with the system-building effort. And, the Network and PA also led a series of youth-only conversations around STEM, afterschool, and informal science education (ISE). Through those, the Network has identified the issues that are important for youth as well as engaging youth voice across socio-economic and geographic boundaries. All these opportunities have informed our work.

Youth need critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and capacity skills. Communication among stakeholders must continue so we can provide STEM exposure, mentoring and real work internship programs for both the hard sciences and the soft sciences. Afterschool and extended learning opportunities can strengthen the school-day experiences. The Network is committed to making STEM opportunities available for Kansas kids. Watch for future conversation and collaboration opportunities. Join us in moving STEM education forward. If you have ideas or resources, we welcome your thoughts: mjdvorak@ku.edu.

Nominating Leadership Development 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.
The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)
By Nancy Niles Lusk, KS PTA Vice President of Advocacy

With the No Child Left Behind Act schools are required to have a certain number of students each year who meet the level of "proficiency," or else the school is labeled as failing to meet AYP, Annual Yearly Progress, and may be penalized with sanctions. Each state sets its own individual levels of benchmarks in reading and math. And each year the federal government increases the percentage number of students who must meet each state's proficiency definition until in the year 2014 when the number will be 100%.

So, what is a state to do if too many of its students cannot pass the tests to meet its definition of student proficiency and therefore too many of its schools fail to meet AYP? Easy answer: dumb down the tests and lower the level of what students are expected to know and learn. In effect, states with high standards are penalized, while states with lower standards are rewarded. Nearly a third of states have lowered their academic proficiency standards in recent years, causing huge disparities in the proficient goals among states.

Fortunately this last March the National Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers came forth with the Common Core State Standards Initiative to address these problems, and 48 states and three territories have voluntarily signed on to adopt the standards.

Here is more information condensed and edited from the National PTA website:

What is the CCSSI?
The CCSSI is an effort designed to improve educational outcomes for students by developing a set of common, voluntary, internationally benchmarked K-12 standards for college and career readiness in English language arts and mathematics. Currently, every state has its own academic standards, which has resulted in a varying expectations and academic rigor for students based on geography. Common core state standards are a first step to leveling the playing field for the nation’s students by increasing rigor in underperforming schools and setting equal expectations for what all students will need to know and be able to do once they graduate from high school. These standards build on the good work conducted by states to date, and help ensure that every student has the same opportunity for a rigorous education that will prepare them for college or career.

Why is it important for students, teachers and parents?

Education standards and level of rigor in instruction vary from state-to-state and often, there are so many and such complicated standards that teachers find them overwhelming to teach. Students receive a variable quality of education across the country, which is especially problematic given high mobility and the need for rigorous academics to ensure US students remain globally competitive. CCSSI intends to develop a set of fewer, clearer and higher common standards that are evidence and research-based and internationally benchmarked.

- Fewer, clearer standards paired with rigorous curriculum and professional development aligned to the standards will help teachers to know what to teach.
- Common and more rigorous standards also help level the playing field by ensuring that every student—regardless of income or geography—has the opportunity to engage in equally challenging work that prepares them for college, career and citizenship.
- Fewer, clearer, higher common standards also support making clear to parents what the expectations are for what their children should know.
- In a growing global economy, ensuring that the standards are benchmarked internationally will ensure that the nation’s students are able to compete, not only with their peers in neighboring states, but also around the world.

Why is PTA uniquely suited to support the CCSSI?

PTA is a key partner in the initiative and has supported this initiative from the start as it aligns with PTA’s mission and vision to ensure equal educational opportunities for every child. As the largest volunteer child advocacy organization with membership of over 5 million parents, families, students, and teachers, PTA is uniquely positioned to be an influential, credible, non-partisan voice in the initiative. Parents have a critical role to play in the adoption and implementation of common standards, as they are their child’s first advocate and have the best interests of their child as a goal.

How is PTA partnering with the Gates Foundation?
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has granted PTA $1 million to support PTA’s common core standards advocacy strategy, specifically the first year of parent education, training and awareness-building activities.

How can PTA leaders and members get more information?

PTA leaders and members can speak with their State PTA President, National Service Representative or call the National PTA Office of Public Policy for information. The latest information about the CCSSI can be found online at www.corestandards.org.
For immediate release
Oct. 14, 2010

Kansas joins 37 other states in adopting
Common Core Standards

TOPEKA – The Kansas State Board of Education this week adopted Common Core State Standards for English language arts and mathematics that are internationally benchmarked and aligned with college and career readiness expectations. Kansas joins 37 other states that have already adopted the Common Core Standards. The vote clears the way for staff at the Kansas State Department of Education to begin drafting a plan to transition from the state’s current standards to the new Kansas Common Core Standards.

The Common Core Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The standards for proficiency in English language arts and mathematics were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators and education experts. They are evidence-based and include both content and application of knowledge through higher-order skills.

"I'm pleased that the Board has voted to adopt the Common Core Standards. I believe it brings a number of advantages to our state, not the least of which is ensuring rigorous and internationally benchmarked standards for Kansas students," said Education Commissioner Dr. Diane DeBacker. "Adopting standards in alignment with other states also allows us to pool resources with those states in the development of assessments and to capitalize on the successful programs and strategies being used in other states."

Like the state’s existing curricular standards, the Common Core Standards provide an expectation for what students should know and be able to do at different grade levels. Decisions regarding curriculum and how students attain the standards are made by local school districts.
January is National Mentoring Month!

January is National Mentoring Month (NMM)! This year marks the 10th Anniversary of this month-long national event which focuses on the need for mentors, as well as how individuals, businesses, government agencies, schools, faith communities and nonprofits can work together to increase the number of mentors and assure brighter futures for our young people. The 2011 NMM Campaign “Help them get there. Be a Mentor.” highlights the multiple benefits of mentoring relationships, particularly in achieving academic goals like reducing the dropout rate.

Our young people face numerous obstacles on a daily basis; bullying, peer pressure, academic hurdles and struggles at home to name a few. Unfortunately, some of these youth slip through the cracks; however, research has proven time and again the positive affects mentoring relationships have on young people. What’s more, being a mentor is greatly beneficial to the mentor!

The benefits of mentoring are profound, especially when considering it only takes one hour, once a week to be a mentor. In one hour you can eat lunch, you can get an oil change in your car, you can balance your checkbook, but you can also change the life of a young person, change your community, change the world, and change your life.

National Mentoring Month celebrates the thousands of mentors changing lives across every community in our state and in our country. Thank Your Mentor Day will be held on January 25, 2011. This day is a thank you from young people to caring adults and to the many organizations dedicated to the mission of safely providing caring adults to young people in need of one. Help celebrate this month by thanking the people who mentored you. Help continue our efforts by signing up to mentor. If you are mentor, thank you for your dedication.

Kansas Mentors is the lead agency for National Mentoring Month in Kansas. Having just wrapped up the third annual Coaches’ Challenge, in which over 3,500 Kansans signed up to be a mentor, there are still thousands of young Kansans in need of a caring adult in their life. Contact your local mentoring agency or visit Kansas Mentors at www.kansasmentors.org to find out how you can sign-up today! One hour, once a week, that is all it takes.

National PTA Theme Search Submission

Kansas PTA is proud to announce that five students from our state participated in the 2012-2013 National PTA Reflections Theme Search. The following students and their theme idea have been submitted to National PTA for final judging:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School PTA</th>
<th>Theme Idea</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hannah Kirby</td>
<td>Lansing Elementary PTA</td>
<td>A Good Friend Is . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Muirhead</td>
<td>Brookridge Elementary PTA</td>
<td>Throughout the Ages . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary DeNooy</td>
<td>Apache Elementary PTA</td>
<td>We Can Help the Earth By . .</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jill Propst</td>
<td>Brookridge Elementary PTA</td>
<td>Hope Is . .</td>
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<tr>
<td>William DeNooy</td>
<td>Apache Elementary PTA</td>
<td>Help Each Other By . .</td>
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Working For All Students
Lauri DeNooy
Arts in Education and Awards Chairman
Membership Minute

The New Year gets us all thinking of what we can do to improve ourselves in all aspects of our lives. We encourage you to resolve to grow your membership in this New Year by reminding your potential members that by becoming a member of your PTA, not only are they reaping all the benefits that that entails but they are helping the children of your school by showing them that they care. We have all heard that the number one indicator of student success is parent involvement. Let's remind our families of this! Kansas PTA encourages you to utilize the resources for membership that can be found on the Kansas PTA website and on the National PTA website. Below is the "New Year, New Opportunities” marketing information from National PTA. Feel free to use this in your campaign.

To help motivate our units, Kansas PTA is having a **MEMBERSHIP CONTEST**. The prize will be 1 FREE REGISTRATION to state convention in April. For existing units: you will get 1 entry into the contest for every 5% you increase your membership over last year’s January and February combined totals. If you increase your members by 15% in the months of January and February, you will receive 3 entries into the contest. For new units: You will receive 1 entry into the contest for every 10 members that you bring in in January and February. If your unit brings in 50 new members, you will receive 5 entries into the contest.

**Stay tuned to your mailbox and inbox for news on future membership contests for this membership year!**

Reminder: Please be sure to submit your membership dues monthly to the Kansas PTA office. Don't forget to include all the awards that your unit has worked so hard to earn. If your unit was represented at the Kansas PTA convention last April....you are eligible for the "Masters in PTA Award". If your unit was represented at the National PTA convention or a Nationally sponsored training since April....you are eligible for the "PhD in PTA Award". As always, we are here to help! If you have any questions or would like to share your membership success, please feel free to contact me or the Kansas PTA office.

Dawn Lalumondier
Kansas PTA Membership Chairperson 2009-2011
johndawn0703@gmail.com
(913)642-3340

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**Training Capacity Building Initiative (TCBI)**

Denise Sultz and Jackie Waters went to McDonald's Hamburger University on Nov. 3rd, 2010 for TCBI Training with National PTA. Denise was attending the National PTA Board of Director's meeting on Wednesday and Thursday and the TCBI 2 training on Friday and Saturday. Jackie attended the TCBI 1 training. The training was an intense 4 days with attendees giving a presentation on the last day. The training consisted of how to develop skills coming up with workshop ideas, titles, formating workshops, presentation skills and aids, handouts, and doing an actual presentation. Lauri DeNooy joined Denise and Jackie On Nov. 5, 2010 for the TCBI 2 training. Great information was attained to share with the Kansas PTA units. If your PTA would like to have a workshop presented in your council or PTA, please contact the state office at 785-234-5782 or kansaspta@gmail.com.

Jackie Waters
Kansas PTA President-Elect
New Year
New Opportunities

As you write your New Year's resolutions, put your child at the top of the list.

“I resolve to be more involved in my child’s education.”

Join PTA!

Through PTA, you can
✓ Stay informed about what's happening at school.
✓ Access great parenting resources.
✓ Make the school an even better place for your child.
✓ Connect with parents, teachers, and school staff.

Your involvement makes a difference for your child.
Join PTA! (It's not too late!)

For more information:
Just Between Friends – Communications Made Easy

Communicate with your entire school!
With Just Between Friends, you can easily communicate with your entire school. And, here’s some great news . . . you have the ability to attach files of the most popular formats to your emails.

To effectively manage all of your communications, you can create sub-groups within your school and select which sub-groups should receive your emails.

One of the features that PTA leaders rave about is the system’s automatic reminder feature. It allows you to select how often and when reminders should be sent.

When you use Just Between Friends for communications, you’re helping parents to manage their busy life because deadlines and events are automatically posted on their calendars. Plus, parents will see all current notices and calendar events on their personal start page. And, this all takes place on a secure, private system!

Not using Just Between Friends, yet?

Learn Just Between Friends
Visit www.LearnJBF.com for lots of “How-to” information, step-by-step directions in printable PDFs, instructional videos and a schedule of training sessions.

Have questions?
Visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com and click on the “Contact Us” button. One of Just Between Friends’ friendly and knowledgeable Customer Service Representatives are there to answer your questions and help you easily use the system.
Extension Services

As I work with PTA members across the state I often hear this phrase, “I am not a leader. I am a follower.” I beg to disagree. If you step forward to be an officer, offer to chair a committee, or even if you just work on an event with a team, you are a leader. You have stepped out of your comfort zone and stepped forward to be a leader for children. You have a vision for what you want for children in your unit or for children in Kansas. Leadership is the process whereby you as an individual influence a group of individuals to achieve a common goal. We all have that inside of us.

Very few people are "born leaders". Most people grow into a leadership role. Good leaders develop through a never ending process of self-study, education, training, and experience. Wherever you are in your progress through the leadership process, please remember that leadership is not managing and leadership is not about being "in charge." Rather leadership is the ability to inspire others to work towards and achieve a higher goal.

Let us continue together to be leaders for the children of Kansas.

Denise Sultz
Vice President of Extension Services

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Awards Ceremony Announcement

Are you curious as to what our students think about Citizenship or Reflections? Our students in Kansas participate in these two educational programs throughout the year.

Citizenship started in the early 70's to encourage our students in grades 5-9 to write either an essay or poetry on an issue or topic that is inspiring. The National PTA Reflections Program has been around for nearly 40 years and is going as strong if not stronger. The Reflections Program encourages students to express their artistic ability in Film Production, Photography, Dance Choreography, Literature, Musical Composition or Visual Arts. We have students from all over the State of Kansas participate in either or both of these programs.

Come join us on March 26, 2011 at Mill Creek Middle School in Lenexa, KS as we reward our students for their entries to the Citizenship and Reflections Program. The Awards Ceremony will begin at 1pm. The students will have the opportunity to present their entry.

Kansas PTA Board of Managers looks forward to the great day of meeting our students, parents and district officials in honoring our students’ achievements.

Kansas PTA Award Ceremony
Saturday, March 26, 2011
1:00 pm
Mill Creek Middle School
8001 Mize Blvd.
Lenexa, KS 66227
# Kansas PTA Board Roster

**State Officers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Debbie Lawson</td>
<td>15719 West 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219</td>
<td>913-541-0806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>President-Elect</td>
<td>Jackie Waters</td>
<td>1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67606</td>
<td>316-522-0706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Advocacy</td>
<td>Nancy Niles Lusk</td>
<td>7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-648-2616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Extension Services</td>
<td>Denise Sultz</td>
<td>9311 West 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-381-7824</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP Member Services</td>
<td>Patty Jurich</td>
<td>3314 N 128th Court, Kansas City, KS 66109</td>
<td>913-334-6051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Lauren Meyer</td>
<td>14139 West 84th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215</td>
<td>913-599-0656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Marie Thomas</td>
<td>22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226</td>
<td>913-302-6178</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Region Vice Presidents**

| Region 1 Vice President    | Eve May               | 8708 Walker Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66112 | 913-328-1219 |
| Region 2 Vice President    | Vacant                |                                              |            |
| Region 3 Vice President    | Nicki Waters          | 220 Alice, Haysville, KS 67606             | 316-554-8011 |
| Region 4 Vice President    | Janet Wood            | 148 Florida Avenue, Salina, KS 67401       | 785-827-8635 |
| Region 5 Vice President    | Vacant                |                                              |            |
| Region 6 Vice President    | Vicky Needham         | 20918 West 71st Street, Shawnee, KS 66218   | 913-441-0110 |
| Region 7 Vice President    | Julie Howard          | 134 North 71st Street, Kansas City, KS 66111 | 913-299-4877 |
| Region 8 Vice President    | Lauren Meyer          | 14139 West 84th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215   | 913-599-0656 |

**State Chairman**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011 Convention Chair</td>
<td>Marie Thomas</td>
<td>22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226</td>
<td>913-302-6178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts in Education &amp; Awards</td>
<td>Lauri DeNooy</td>
<td>7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-548-7277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget Committee</td>
<td>Marie Thomas</td>
<td>22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226</td>
<td>913-302-6178</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Bylaws Review</td>
<td>Diana Fabac</td>
<td>5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
<td>913-375-1644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulletin Editor</td>
<td>Robert DeNooy</td>
<td>7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-271-6892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Legislative</td>
<td>Nancy Niles Lusk</td>
<td>7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-648-2616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>Sarah Jackson</td>
<td>10710 West 92nd Street, Overland Park, KS 66214</td>
<td>913-307-0036</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusiveness / Diversity Leadership</td>
<td>Michelle Sierant</td>
<td>1015 South 49th Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
<td>913-287-5313</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Toni Miller</td>
<td>813 Merrily Drive, Salina, KS 67401</td>
<td>785-819-4684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Involvement</td>
<td>Allen Bradley</td>
<td>1516 N. 85th Place, Kansas City, KS 66112</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member Outreach/Family Engagement</td>
<td>Patty Jurich</td>
<td>3314 N 128th Court, Kansas City, KS 66109</td>
<td>913-334-6051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Dawn Lalumondier</td>
<td>8907 W 82nd St, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-642-3340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OMDR</td>
<td>Tammy Bartels</td>
<td>504 South Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66086</td>
<td>913-417-7031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PTA Store / Meeting Assistant</td>
<td>Sheila Bunnell</td>
<td>7028 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
<td>913-375-1652</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publicity / Marketing</td>
<td>Vicki Whisenant</td>
<td>2901 N 51st, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
<td>913-334-9075</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep. of Council Presidents</td>
<td>Tammy Wake</td>
<td>5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
<td>913-831-3868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolutions Committee</td>
<td>Tammy Bartels</td>
<td>504 South Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66086</td>
<td>913-417-7031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resource Development</td>
<td>Jackie Waters</td>
<td>1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67606</td>
<td>316-522-0706</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Bylaws</td>
<td>Jackie Waters</td>
<td>1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67606</td>
<td>316-522-0706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Legislative</td>
<td>Mary F. Sinclair, PhD</td>
<td>5801 Lincton Lane, Fairway, KS 66205</td>
<td>913-513-3126</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Extension</td>
<td>Rae Ann Kobylnski</td>
<td>8530 Barkley, Overland Park, KS 66212</td>
<td>913-341-9124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Robert DeNooy</td>
<td>7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-271-6982</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consultants / Committee Appointments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Nominating &amp; Leadership Dev</td>
<td>Lauri DeNooy</td>
<td>7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
<td>913-548-7277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Laura Kaiser</td>
<td>5222 West 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207</td>
<td>913-341-3078</td>
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</table>

**Council Presidents**

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<tr>
<td>*DeSoto</td>
<td>Chris Akin</td>
<td>4820 Millridge, Shawnee, KS 66226</td>
<td>913-422-3756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Kansas City</td>
<td>Monica Crowe</td>
<td>3047 North 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
<td>913-299-3583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Shawnee Mission</td>
<td>Karen Wagner</td>
<td>9708 Russell Street, Shawnee Mission, KS 66212</td>
<td>913-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>648.8268*Turner</td>
<td>Tammy Wake</td>
<td>5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
<td>913-831-3868</td>
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**Office Support**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Office Secretary</td>
<td>Sharon Julius</td>
<td>715 S.W. Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612</td>
<td>785-234-5782</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Not a board position.*

This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org. Email addresses for all board members are available on the website.
January—February 2010

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Debbie Lawson            President
Jackie Waters            President-Elect
Nancy Niles Lusk         Vice President of Advocacy
Patty Jurich             Vice President of Member Services
Denise Sultz             Vice President of Extension
Lauren Meyer             Secretary
Marie Thomas             Treasurer

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