Hello PTA members,

I just wanted to touch base with everyone to make sure you are aware that the KS PTA Convention will be here soon. Who should or could attend State convention? Any PTA member may attend, and you can actually work this into your budgets, it’s a training for incoming officers, membership chairs, fundraising chairs or even future leaders. You still have time to amend your budgets if you don’t have a line item for training, you can make changes to budgets with as little as 30 days’ notice.

We had a lot of discussion about this year’s convention, the Board of Managers decided to go outside the box again. We are doing a one day and done convention. We are having a pre-convention event but if you are registered it is free. If you are not attending the convention you may still take part for $20.00. Leslie Boggs is the National PTA President Elect and she will be doing a workshop that we hope will be entertaining and informative.

We will have some great guest speakers, wonderful workshops, super silent auction and of course the PTA store. Make sure you check out the Call to Convention and make those plans to join us on Friday April 12th and Saturday April 13th for an action packed day.

Food for thought: National PTA is proposing a dues increase at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio in June. Please check out the webinar; https://youtu.be/Lr44BGMQ6ZU, and additional information at PTA.org; https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/membership-dues

I am sure there will be lots of conversations about this at convention but please read the facts.

Thank you for all you do!

Monica Crowe
KS PTA President
Make Plans to Attend the 105th Annual Kansas PTA Convention

This is a single-day training event jam packed with; workshops on relevant & current topics for today's PTAs and schools, General Meetings, Keynote address, vendors, state board elections, plus two convention favorites - our silent auction and PTA Store!

Come Early! for our special Friday evening event for additional training, hosted by our NPTA President Elect - Leslie Boggs. Details to be announced in the Call to Convention.

What to do now:

1. Save the Date - Saturday, April 13, 2019
2. Start announcing this event at your PTA meetings and encourage your board and all members to attend
3. Review your budget and be sure you have a Training line item, so you can help support those wishing to attend
4. REGISTER HERE!!

Plan now to attend!!
10 Tips to Prevent Theft

1. Conduct annual audits
2. Have 2 unrelated signatories
3. Monthly review of bank statements by 2 non-check signers
4. Verify cash logs, receipts, bank deposit slips
5. Make bank deposits immediately
6. Two people count cash
7. Secure the checks
8. Don’t pre-sign checks
9. Look for missing check #s
10. Look for checks made out to cash

Want more tips & best practices?

Join us at the Kansas PTA Convention for our "It's Not Your Money!!" fraud prevention workshop.

~ Vikki Mullins, Kansas PTA Treasurer | Turner District Council PTA President | ksptamom@aol.com | (913) 523-6609

EXTENSION REPORT

The extension committee has chartered 5 new units since August 2018. Those units are in Region 7, Journey School of Choice in the Turner district; Region 1, Sumner Academy and Rosedale Middle School in Kansas City, KS district; Region 8, Lenexa Hills Elementary, Shawnee Mission district; and Region 6, Briarwood Elementary, Olathe School district. The goal for the extension committee was 6 new charters this year and we are working hard to get that last unit.

We are waiting on paperwork from two more units in Region 1, Kansas City, KS school district and we are in correspondence with a possible new unit in the Northeast KS area that we hope to have real soon.

The Extension committee is charged with finding new units throughout the State of Kansas and chartering those units and helping units that have dropped to re-charter. The Extension committee will continue to seek more units and members in our state and work diligently to start new units. If you know of a school or group that would like to start a PTA, please contact the State PTA office and that information will be forwarded on to me.

~ Submitted by:
Diana Fabac, Extension Chairman
Hard to believe that we are in the second half of our school year already. Time seems to be flying by!

Are you ready to revitalize your membership and make sure that everyone has had the opportunity to be a part of your PTA this year?

Here are some ideas that might help you.

Have an upcoming event in February or March where parents will be in the building? Have a membership table.....have a poster that tells what all PTA does for the children in your school. (Concert, Basketball Game, School Play, Conferences)

Have you asked all of your current members to ask one additional person to join? A spouse, Grandparent, Aunt, Uncle, close neighbor, family friend? Tell them about a PTA event that your child enjoys.

Have you asked any new parents that have moved into your PTA community to join? Have you invited them to a meeting and introduced them to other parents?

Have you told anyone about the voice for children that they represent when they join a PTA? Are they aware that we first started speaking up for children in 1897?

Do you have a Founder’s Day Celebration planned for our Anniversary Month of February? Do you invite Past Presidents to come back and to join your PTA? Do you talk about our history?

Any and all of these ideas could help you bring new voices into your PTA. Being a part of a larger group of people who believe in children is a reward in itself!

~ Denise Sultz | Kansas PTA Membership Chair
As convention season looms before us, we need to focus on our motivation, why each of us decided to be part of PTA, why we ‘put ourselves in the picture’. It is easy to get caught up in the planning and execution of the necessary meetings, classes, meals and other activities. If we indulge in just a few moments of introspection, the details and to-do lists seem to fade into the background like an out of focus photograph. Instead, we can narrow our emphasis, think about the children, and remember that the decisions we make affect their chances of being represented and empowered.

Convention provides us the unique occasion to gather as a State (or as a Nation) to learn and to teach; further, it allows us to share our successes and our misfires. Just as the students depend upon us, we must depend on one another to ensure that we are doing whatever is necessary to help provide unity and substance.

PTA does all those things, and more, for every student. As 2019 begins, the challenges that parents, caregivers, teachers, para educators and specialists face continue. Students with special needs, be they physical or otherwise, depend upon all of us to continue keeping our promises.

PTA can benefit students with special needs by advocating for the creation of opportunities and possibilities that in the not-so-distant past were available to only typically-developing students. Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget (1) wrote: “The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things.”

So stand up, today and every day...advocate, always...and be that empowering force for our most precious resource!

Submitted by Cindy Villa – Special Education Chair – Kansas PTA

(1) Jean Piaget was a Swiss psychologist known for his work on child development. Piaget's theory of cognitive development and epistemological view are together called "genetic epistemology". https://www.biography.com/people/jean-piaget-9439915

By direction of the Bylaws Committee and the Kansas PTA Board of Managers the following bylaws amendment has been proposed for vote by the members of Kansas PTA at the 2019 convention.

**PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES**

**ARTICLE X: COMMITTEES**

**Current Wording:**
Committees may be created by the Board of Managers to carry on the work of the Kansas PTA. Chairmen of committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee to serve during that administration and no single appointment shall exceed a term of two years. These chairmen may be eligible for reappointment, but at the expiration of the second consecutive term shall not be eligible for reappointment to that same committee until a period of one year shall have lapsed. This does not preclude a chairman serving two terms on one committee and then subsequently being appointed as chairman of another committee.

**Current Wording showing revisions:**
Committees may be created by the Board of Managers to carry on the work of the Kansas PTA. Chairmen of committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Executive Committee to serve during that administration and no single appointment shall exceed a term of two years. These chairmen may be eligible for reappointment, but at the expiration of the second consecutive term shall not be eligible for reappointment to that same committee until a period of one year shall have lapsed. This does not preclude a chairman serving two terms on one committee and then subsequently being appointed as chairman of another committee.

**Proposed Wording:**
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Gun Safety for Children

~ By Kimberly Martin, Health and Wellness Chairperson

According to the Center for Disease Control Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (CDC WIS-QARS) 78 children, teens and young adults are injured or killed by guns on a daily basis in the United States (American Academy of Pediatrics, 2019). The safest home for children and teens is a home without guns, but there are ways to make homes with guns safer. It is not enough to teach kids gun safety or not to touch a gun if they find one (“Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population,” 2012). There are however several ways to reduce the risk of children being injured or killed in homes with guns.

1. **Safe storage**- all guns in your home should be stored unloaded with the gun and ammunition locked in separate areas. Make sure children and teens do not have access to the combinations or keys for the lock boxes or gun safes. Guns should also not be stored unlocked and loaded in your car (“Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population,” 2012)

2. **In use**- When using a gun for hunting or target practice, do not take the safety off until you are ready to fire. Unload the gun before setting it down. Never point a gun in the direction of another person, even if it is unloaded (“Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population,” 2012).

3. **ASK (Asking Saves Kids)** - More than a third of all unintentional shootings occur in the homes of relatives, friends or neighbors. It is important to ask if a home your child is going to has a gun and if they do how that gun is stored. Also make sure you have taught your child if they come across a gun they must immediately tell an adult and leave it alone (“Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population,” 2012).

4. **Guns in the Media**- Talk with your children about gun violence they see in movies, tv shows or on video games. They need to understand that what they see in popular media may romanticize gun use but in real life children are badly injured and killed by guns. They must understand the dangers of guns (“Firearm-Related Injuries Affecting the Pediatric Population,” 2012).

To find out where to get a free gun lock in Kansas, go to this link. You can find a location near you listed by city.
https://www.projectchildsafe.org/safety/safety-kit/Kansas


**References**


GUN SAFETY and CHILDREN

If you own a firearm, the AAP recommends it be stored unloaded, locked up (lock box, cable lock, or firearm safe), with the ammunition stored separately.

About 1/3 of the homes with children in the United States have a gun. Many are stored loaded and/or unlocked.

Every day, 78 children, teens, and young adults are injured or killed by guns in the United States.

Source: CDC WISQARS database including data for all races, ages 0-21, from 2013-2015.

Children as young as 3 years may be strong enough to pull the trigger on a handgun.

The safest home for children and teens is one without guns.

The risk of dying by suicide is 4 to 10 times higher in homes with guns. If you have a teen who is at risk for suicide, remove guns and ammunition from your house.
Legislative Update

The Kansas Legislature often moves at a rapid pace.

Follow Kansas PTA social media for updates:
Facebook https://m.facebook.com/kansaspta/
Twitter @KsPTALeg

Also, make sure you know who represents you in Topeka. Go to openstates.org, and contact your elected officials and tell them to support our three requests outlined below.

Kansas PTA recently joined other public education advocacy groups across Kansas in delivering a statement to lawmakers in Topeka. The statement consisted of three requests:

1 - Provide funding that addresses the inflation factor as noted by the Court.
2 - Retain the current formula.
3 - Preserve the Constitution.

Excerpt from the press conference: "Provide the funding that addresses the inflation factor as noted by the Court. We ask that the legislature adopt the amount recommended by the Kansas State Board of Education in July. We believe that the dollars necessary are reasonable and available within the enhanced revenue picture the state has been experiencing since passing tax reform measures in 2017.

We ask that our state legislators retain the current formula. The Court was clear that the formula crafted over the last two years meets the constitutional standard except that it is not fully funded. The Court found the method of distributing aid across our state to be appropriate and equitable. Changing the formula again would only extend litigation and would be counterproductive.

Finally, we ask that our state legislators preserve the constitution. We believe it is imperative that our Kansas legislators know that parents value Article VI. We are grateful for the protections this deliberate and thoughtful language provides for our children’s future and that of our state. We oppose a constitutional amendment and firmly believe that no good would come of any changes."


Kansas Capitol building,
Topeka, Kansas
The “F” word that silences a meeting time and time again...Fundraising. I hope we all know we are more than fundraisers when it comes to PTA. First and foremost the way I see it is yes it is important, I actually rate it number 3 on my list of importance as a past President and Treasurer. But it is not all we as a group should be. You see I have my own business and like any business, I am well aware we need money to run it but when we look at the big picture we are more than a school’s funding source. We can still do a lot with, (like at our elementary), a budget that isn’t so grand. My kiddos go to a Title I (85%) school with at least 5-10 people who are actively working to make things happen.

On my list of importance is: #1. The morale and connection we have with our parents and school employees, be it the Principal, teachers or aides and students. #2 The programs. A well connected relationship should give you support and ideas for the kinds of students there are in your school, the curriculum/education program they have to teach and the goal of the Principal and district. Then for me come’s the treasury- “money” side of things.

When you search “top fundraising companies” or “best fundraising for Not-for-Profit” a long list of companies for pages are on there. So how do we know what is best. I have learned the best ones are not just those that give you the highest percentage, but the ones that are easy to do and do not require the 10+ volunteers, extra meetings and frankly more work. Like any business, we should probably look at each of our PTA capabilities to see if this is something that will help us before it hurts us in morale. Let’s face it, there are some fundraisers we loath or are scared of, but somewhere in our school there may be that person who loves them, has a way of making it easier or even may have a better, simpler idea to gain the monetary resources the PTA needs to run.

As of lately there seems to be more of “x school makes this much and this school doesn’t.” In my opinion it doesn’t really matter. Each school’s demographics is their own and what may happen in one year can change the next. Yes some make a lot of money, so that I have to take a second look when I hear about it, but instead of thinking how affluent a school may be in funds, I like to think my school is affluent in the love and care that the parents are willing to sacrifice to attend and really get to know their school. When we as a Parent, Teacher Association really start to connect with each other and engage with our school families as such, the value is way more that we can ever imagine. Yes, some parents in some schools are willing to pay $50 to leave them alone, but are you just looking for funds or are you wanting to engage your parents to be involved, and to connect not just with the PTA but with the student or teachers on a different level. No one has the correct answer on this but I hope we can see that we can be more than fundraisers but real family and school supporters. Whichever fundraising event or company you decide to do, try to make it fun and easy.

~ Angelique Rodriguez-Gunion
On Tuesday, February 5, 2019, Kansas PTA held its annual PTA Advocacy Day at the state Capitol in Topeka. The day was filled with meetings and visits with state legislators, a sit-in on the House and Senate sessions and attending a meeting of the House Education Committee with guest speaker Kansas Commissioner, Randy Watson. We are very fortunate to have many great PTA supporters in Topeka who back public education in Kansas.

KS PTA Board members Devin Wilson and Mia Wooldridge with Senator Dinah Sykes

Our PTA magnet giveaway – stating our education priorities!

Advocacy team member Mary Sinclair and Devin Wilson, with Mark Tallman of KASB.
Kim Martin,
Mia Wooldridge,
Mary Sinclair,
Cindy Neighbor,
Brian Hogsett,
Nancy Lusk

Devon Wilson,
Brian Hogsett,
Kim Martin,
Nancy Lusk
Patty Jurich is nominated for the position of President-Elect.

Patty has been involved with PTA for 32 years and has held many officer and chairman positions at the local, council and state levels, and in the KCK and Turner school districts. She served as President at Hazel Grove and Central elementary PTA’s, Sumner Academy High School PTSA and three terms as Council president for the KCK Council of PTA. Patty has served on the Kansas PTA Board of Managers for 21 years, serving in several positions including; Secretary, VP of Member Services, VP of Extension, 2009 Convention Chairman, Convention Local Committee Chair, Scholarship Trustee Chair, Safety Chair, Youth Advisory Committee Chair, Fundraising & Exhibits Chair, Family Engagement Chair, Nominating and Leadership Development Chair, and on various committees, including Legislative, Resource Development, Budget & Finance, Virginia Peak, Audit and Convention Committees. She has served as Region 7 Vice President, and as a Field Service Rep. for regions 2, 3, 4, & 5. Patty is currently serving as Programs Chair, and represents Kansas PTA on the KSDE Professional Standards Board, the Kansas Teacher Licensure Accreditation Committee, and the Kansas Learning First Alliance. She has previously represented Kansas PTA on the 2010 Kansas Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, Safe Kids Coalition, and the Robert C. Byrd Federal Scholarship Selection Committee and was part of the KSDE’s Character Education Initiative for developing the Standard for Social, Emotional and Character Development for Kansas. She represented Kansas PTA on the National PTA’s Council of States and completed training in phase 1 & 2 of National PTA’s Training Capacity Building Initiative. Patty has received 2 Kansas PTA Honorary Life Membership Awards from Hazel Grove Elementary and the KCK PTA Council, and in 2011 was the recipient of the Kansas PTA Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award. Patty has also been active in the Boy Scouts, Junior Achievement, the Business Education Coalition in KCK and is currently serving as President of her Church Women United chapter in KCK. Patty and her husband, Michael, live in Piper. They have three children, Nick, Lauren & Kristin, their spouses – Katie, Ben and Ruben, and 7 grandchildren – Aurora, Aubrey, Ava, Cullen, Layla, Rylan, and Sophia.
Kimberly Martin is nominated for the office of Vice President of Advocacy

Kimberly Martin RN, M.S.Ed, BSN. I graduated with my BSN in 1992 from University of Kansas and received a Master's degree in education with emphasis in school health from Pittsburg State University in 2017. I was a labor and delivery nurse for 22 years and became a school nurse in the Shawnee Mission School district 5 years ago. I have been married for 20 years and have 2 children. When my son was in Kindergarten I joined the PTA as a way to be more involved in his education. I was a room mother and did the school website for the PTA. I was then asked to be on the executive board as the corresponding secretary. Other PTA roles I held at the elementary and middle schools of my children were Treasurer, webmaster, social media chair and newsletter chair. I was also the Shawnee Mission Area Council webmaster for 2 years. I was asked to be the KS PTA Health and Wellness Chair a year and a half ago and have enjoyed being more involved at the state level. I hope to be able to serve Kansas PTA as VP of Advocacy to make sure all Kansas children and families receive a quality education and are able to access needed resources.

Diana Fabac is nominated for the position of Vice President of Extension Services

My name is Diana Fabac and I am running for the office of Vice President of Extension. As a PTA member since 2005 and a State Board member for the last 13 years, it is my experience with my local, council and state PTA that prepares me for the duties of this office. As a State Board member, 6 years of that were spent at various times as the Chair of the Extension Committee. I currently hold this chair position. Each time I have chaired this committee, I have exceeded the number of units chartered and projected for this committee. I enjoy seeking and starting new units and adding new voices and members to our state. As the Vice President of Extension, I would continue to work very closely with the new Extension Chair and with the YAC committee chair. We need more young people in Kansas PTA as we help to shape them into tomorrow’s leaders.

Personally, I am widowed and have two children, Matthew is 21 and Megan is 18 and a senior in high school. I also am mom to two very loving fur babies.
Sheila Bunnell is nominated for the position of Treasurer

Sheila is currently serving as Kansas PTA VP Member Services (appointed when someone resigned) and as PTA Store Chair. She has served on the KSPTA Board of Managers as VP Member Services, Treasurer (appointed when someone resigned) Membership Chair, PTA Store/Meeting Assistant, and has also served on the Audit, NLDC and Scholarship Committees, she has been on Kansas PTA Board of Managers for at least 10 years. She has served on the Turner Council Board in the following positions President, 1st & 2nd VP’s, and as Treasurer. She has served in multiple positions at her daughter's schools for the past 21 years until they both graduated; Turner Elem., Morris Elem., and at Turner Middle and High Schools then continued serving on the Kansas PTA State Board. Sheila and her husband coached softball and she was involved with Girl Scouts and neighborhood watch groups. Sheila and her late husband, Greg, have daughters Krystina and Raychel, and she has 1 stepdaughter, Heather, and 1 grandson Lucca that is the love of her life, 3 step grandchildren. Sheila's family includes many furry children. Sheila has worked for Adventhealth Shawnee Mission (previously Shawnee Mission Medical Center) for 32 years.

Tash Davis is nominated for the position of Vice President—Member Services

Tash is currently the State Newsletter, Bulletin, Editor and served this position the past four years, along with being Field Service Rep for Region 8 – Shawnee Mission. I have been married for 24 years and have one daughter, who graduated from Shawnee Mission East last year. I am currently an admin assistant in Career & Tech Ed at Shawnee Mission School District. Prior to this, I was Operations Coordinator at the Pizza Hut Call Center for 25 years. Coming from a background where my parents were involved in PTA, it was natural for us to join. My husband and I joined PTA when our daughter was in Kindergarten. We quickly found that ‘it’s not your mom’s PTA‘ anymore. :) We wanted to be involved in our daughter’s education, become acquainted with her teachers and administration and especially other parents and families she was going to school with. We had talent and resources to share and wanted to volunteer and assist however we could. Our kids are priceless to watch and work with. I have been fortunate to serve in the majority of board positions at our local level, as well as the Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA since joining PTA in 2005. I also had the privilege to serve as SME Theatre Booster Club President for two years. I look forward to serving the state in this capacity.
# Kansas PTA Board Roster

## State Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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## Committee Chairs

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<th>Chair</th>
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<tbody>
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## Field Service Reps

| Region 1 Field Service Rep               | Mary Ricketts     | 913-707-6343  | mtricketts@gmail.com         |
| Region 2 & 5 Field Service Rep          | Julie Howard      | 913-626-6224  | julie@juno.com               |
| Region 3 & 6 Field Service Rep          | Lauri DeNooy      | 913-707-6343  | Lauri.denoo@gmail.com        |
| Region 4 Field Service Rep              | Lauri DeNooy      | 913-707-6343  | Lauri.denoo@gmail.com        |
| Region 7 Field Service Rep              | Josie Gutierrez   | 913-626-6224  | josiechad@yahoo.com          |
| Region 8 Field Service Rep              | Tash Davis        | 913-626-6224  | tashjavis@gmail.com          |

## Council Presidents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Council</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City Council</td>
<td>Rachel Russell</td>
<td>913-674-7117</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kckcouncilpta@gmail.com">kckcouncilpta@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shawnee Mission Council</td>
<td>Jim Bacon</td>
<td>913-626-9666</td>
<td><a href="mailto:smacpres@smacpta.org">smacpres@smacpta.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turner Council</td>
<td>Vikki Mullins</td>
<td>913-626-9666</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ksptamom@aol.com">ksptamom@aol.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS PTA Office Secretary</td>
<td>Natalie Schweda</td>
<td>785-234-5782</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kansaspta@gmail.com">kansaspta@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Kansas PTA State Office

715 S.W. Tenth Street, Topeka, KS 66612
1-888-311-5782 or 785-234-5782 Fax: 785-234-4170
kansaspta@gmail.com; www.kansas-pta.org

## National PTA Headquarters

1250 N. Pitt Street Alexandria, VA 22314
(800) 307-4PTA (4782)
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.