Debbie Lawson on stage at the National PTA Convention in Memphis, TN.

Laura Kaiser and Sandee Crowther getting ready to enter the General Meeting.

Newly Elected National PTA Board of Directors including our own Denise Sultz.

Group shot of the Kansas Delegation at National PTA Convention.
Debbie Lawson
Kansas PTA President

The start of the new school year is almost upon us. It seems unbelievable - summer just began! I hope you enjoyed the summer days with your family and are energized and ready to get the new school year off to a great start!

PTA - Give your child the gift that counts - You! PTA membership means so much to families, students, teachers, administrators and the community. PTA membership allows us to speak and work for all children on health, advocacy and other issues so important to our youth. Sometimes all it takes is to ask a person to join your PTA unit and help your school. Remember to ask dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles as well as teachers and administrators in your building. Be creative with your membership campaign! You will find the new Kansas PTA membership flyer on the website at www.kansas-pta.org. It is a wonderful tool to gain membership in your PTA. Go for the membership awards - let's all work hard to increase membership in our PTA units across the state. PTA membership benefits all children! We speak for Every Child with One Voice.

The National PTA Big Box of Possibilities is available to order on the website. Please go to www.pta.org and register for your kit today. The kit contains reference guides for presidents, treasurers, membership chairs, and a wealth of information to run your PTA unit during the coming year. Make sure you register today! The kit will be mailed directly to you once you register.

The Kansas PTA summer packet cd was mailed directly to your unit president. The Kansas PTA summer packet contains information for Kansas PTA units. On the cd you will find membership information and flyers, parliamentary information, advocacy guide, secretary guide, treasurer information, installation guides and much more. Please let the office know if you did not receive your summer packet.

Good luck with the new school year! Let us know if you need any information, would like to schedule training for your unit or have general questions. Although our secretary is out of the office due to an accident, the Kansas PTA board members are here to help you in any way we can.

Debbie Lawson, Kansas PTA President

Chuck Saylors
PTA National President

President’s Message
Will Your School Get an “A” for Achievement?
PTA® members organize after-school programs, meet with school boards, advocate to legislators, and try to raise the level of parent engagement in their community—and that’s just Tuesday! We’re ambitious, hard-working busy folks. Why? Because we know that every ounce of effort we put in has a direct impact on our students’ achievement. That includes helping with homework, volunteering for field trips, and participating in events at school. And while all the work that engaged parents do obviously helps their own children, it also helps other kids, too. That’s the best part of volunteering with PTA.

We are the largest family engagement association in the country, and it’s no coincidence that the very first topic you’ll find on PTA.org is “student success.” Getting parents, communities, educators, and others engaged in children’s lives is our top priority, because it is a leading indicator of how well students do in school. The correlation between engagement and achievement is so great that we created the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships so that every community in America could have tried-and-true guidelines for engaging families and building relationships that work. You will find plenty of tools and guides on our website to help your child achieve success, including resources to help you build partnerships within the community (and with one another), conduct effective arts education programs, prepare children for tests, and much more.

When a PTA member asks someone else—a grandparent, a family friend, a community leader—to join our association, the intent is not to swell our ranks or fill our coffers; it’s to have another positive influence, a role model, a mentor, a volunteer who can promote the mission and goals of PTA. I can’t stress enough how important it is that we invite everyone to join PTA, even if it means making special allowances for dues. There are so many great ideas out there in our communities to help students succeed—we just need the people who will put them into action. Take advantage of the greatest resource we have in PTA—each other. Talk face-to-face with PTA members in your town or from across the country at conventions. Go online with e-mail and take advantage of our social networking resources, such as the PTA Great Idea Bank, the PTA Facebook Fan Page, and @ptaeditor on Twitter. We have an amazing wealth of knowledge and experience in this association—something you can’t find anywhere else. If you happen to have a great idea yourself, be sure to drop me a line. We’re always looking to try something new at my children’s school, too.

Charles J. “Chuck” Saylors 2009-2011 National PTA President

www.pta.org/chucksaylors

Published in the December/January 2010 Our children: www.pta.org/ourchildren
The Kansas social host law: What you need to know
By Keri Renner, Kansas Family Partnership, Inc.

The Kansas PTA and Kansas Family Partnership (KFP) have partnered on many occasions to help spread the word to parents and others about substance abuse-related issues among youth. Kansas Family Partnership is a statewide non-profit agency located in Topeka and our mission is to promote a drug-free Kansas through education, networking and advocacy. KFP has a handful of initiatives relating to the prevention of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, one of those being the Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free. Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free is a governor’s spouse initiative, and Kansas First Lady Stacy Parkinson is our current spokesperson.

This spring, Mrs. Parkinson agreed to record some public service announcements regarding underage drinking and social hosting. The announcements are currently in distribution among all of the Kansas television and radio stations. Be looking for, or listening for them in your area. The issue of social hosting has been around for quite some time, but has only been a law in Kansas since 2004. In 2001, a Lenexa teen named Paul Riggs attended a party at a friend’s house where they were drinking alcohol. Paul drove home that night intoxicated and crashed into a tree. He later died from his injuries. His mother, Debbie, endeavored to get a law enacted to protect underage youth from being served alcohol by a parent, friend or someone else. The result was the social host law (K.S.A. 21-3610c), or “Paul’s Law.”

Many people are not aware of the social host law in Kansas. Social hosting is providing and/or serving alcohol to a young person who is under age 21. It can even extend to parents and homeowners who are not home, out-of-town, or unaware that underage drinking is taking place in their home. The penalty for being charged with social hosting is a Class A misdemeanor and carries a minimum fine of $1,000. In addition, the court could order the offender to serve the community or perform public service at an alcohol treatment facility.

Most parents do not allow underage drinking to take place, but some parents believe it is their right to serve alcohol to their child. In some instances, parents are found to be serving alcohol to not only their own child, but to their child’s friends. Sometimes, their child may serve alcohol to their friends at a party and the parents “look the other way.” For the parents who don’t think that there’s anything wrong with underage drinking, they might want to change their way of thinking.

An increasing number of science-based studies are emerging, providing evidence that the adolescent brain is still undergoing development during adolescence—“under construction,” essentially. The maturation of the teen brain really doesn’t come until the mid-twenties, at about age 24 or 25. And, with all of the areas of the human brain, judgment is actually the last to develop—in the frontal lobe. That being said, if alcohol, or other drugs or stimulants are used during the development in a teen brain, those substances can cause harm and possibly interfere with the maturation process. Teens only need to drink half as much alcohol as adults to suffer the same negative effects.

If the scientific evidence doesn’t convince anyone, then the simple fact that nothing good comes from underage drinking should be enough. So many negative consequences can occur when minors drink alcohol. Drinking and driving (DUIs), domestic violence, sexual assault or unplanned pregnancy, injuries such as falling down; getting burned; drowning; fighting; depression; and alcohol poisoning are just a few things that can happen to youth who drink.

As parents, you can help to spread the word by talking to your children about the dangers of underage drinking. Communicate to them that if a parent or other person serves them alcohol while they are underage, it’s against the law. It’s important to talk early and often to your children about the health and social issues of underage drinking. What happens in your home affects the community. It is our job as parents to help keep our children safe, and preventing underage drinking is an issue we need to be vigilant about. We invite you to check out KFP’s Web site at http://www.kansasfamily.com as we provide many resources online and in print that can be ordered for free, as well as videos and DVDs regarding substance abuse related topics. Parents and adults are the greatest influence on the decisions that teens make, so let’s work together to be a positive influence on their lives.
PTA MEMBERSHIP

Give Your Child the Gift that Counts...

You!

By joining PTA you are helping your child’s school PTA, Kansas PTA and National PTA. Just by joining, you are helping your child succeed in school. And if you choose to volunteer, not only are you helping your child, but every child in the community.

Give your child the gift he or she wants most of all... You!

Join PTA Now.

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FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION

We have all heard that “it takes a village to raise a child”. To improve the outcome for all students and to prepare our children to compete in the global world and business and guarantee success it is going to take “a community to educate a child”.

President Barack Obama is quoted to say “There is no program and no policy that can substitute for a parent who is involved in their child's education from day one”. Engaging families and communities in education is critical to improving outcomes for all students, particularly for students in high-need schools. Under current law, family engagement is too often focused on a checklist of activities rather than on driving results, funding isn't always targeted to the most effective practices, and family engagement is treated as a discrete activity rather than an integrated strategy that should have a place across multiple programs.

The proposal to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) formally known as the NCLB reflects the importance for strengthening and supporting family engagement both through specific programs designed to involve families and communities and through policies that will empower and engage families. It will ensure that families have the information they need about their children's schools and enhance the ability of teachers and leaders to include families in the education process.

How does ESEA propose to accomplish this goal? They will support state, district and school efforts to engage families by:

1. Supporting comprehensive district approaches to family engagement.
2. Enhancing district capacity around family engagement.

They will propose investments in family and community engagement and safe and supportive schools through:

1. Successful, Safe and Healthy Students Programs.
2. Promise Neighborhoods Programs.
3. 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

They will propose a call for transparency and accountability through:

1. Better information for families about their children’s schools,
2. Better information for families on teachers and principal effectiveness,
3. Family notification.

Their proposal will support teachers and principals in engaging families more effectively by:

1. Effective teachers engaging families
2. Effective leaders engaging families and
3. Family literacy

Lastly, this act will propose to provide options to families by:

1. Meaningful, high-quality choices in schools.

What can we do as parents to become engaged in our schools and children’s educations? As parents we need to be responsible: accept our role as parent and make education a priority in our homes. Be committed: Once we have begun to work with our children, continue doing so throughout the year. Be positive: praise goes a long way with children, especially those who struggle in school, provide positive feedback. Be patient: show your child that you care through your commitment and encouragement. Be attentive: stop your child immediately when bad behavior appears. Show them what to do and provide an opportunity to do it correctly. Discipline should be appropriate and consistent. Be precise: provide clear and direct instructions. Be mindful of mistakes: record your child's performance. Look over all the work your child brings home from school and keep it in a folder. Help them correct any errors. Be results-oriented: gather information on how your child is performing in school. Keep notes of conferences with teachers, request progress reports and carefully read report cards and achievement test results. Ask questions about these results. Be diligent: work from the beginning to the end of the year with your child and teacher. Be innovative: keep learning lively and dynamic. Be THERE: just be there for your child—to answer questions, to listen, to give advice, to encourage and to speak positively about his or her life. Be there to support you child whenever needed.

Go to your children’s school often. Volunteer and become involved in assisting your school in teaching your child. Join your local PTA unit and become an advocate for all children. Your local PTA unit provides funding to your school so that your child will have field trips and school parties. However the main purpose of PTA is to advocate for the education, health and safety of all children in your communities. Talk to your school PTA unit and join them in advocating for better education, better lunch programs and literacy programs that you can volunteer to assist in accomplishing.

If you need more information on the ESEA, contact your state PIRC or Parent Information and Resource Center and they will provide valuable information on government programs to enhance and teach parents on education, health and safety issues.

Diana Fabac,
Family Involvement Chair
Marjorie Holwick Wall of Fame

Kansas PTA provides a wonderful opportunity to recognize friends of the students of Kansas with the Marjorie Holwick Wall of Fame. Marjorie Holwick served as parliamentarian for KSPTA for almost thirty years. She helped at the side of state presidents during conventions and meetings and presented many workshops. Mrs. Holwick passed away several years ago. The Wall of Fame was established to honor her years of service, recognize the service of other volunteers and raise funds for the Future Teachers Scholarship Fund. A $10 donation is requested and goes into the scholarship fund. Honored recipients are recognized at the state convention and receive a letter of acknowledgement. The following individuals were honored this year:

Carol Apgar, Allen Bradley, Amy Brown, Sandy Brown, Sheila Bunnell, Karla Capper, Lauri DeNooy, Diana Fabac, Kim Fairchild, Denise Gaughan, Chuck Gibson, Ernie Coerend, Karen Green, Carrie Handy, Dottie Hill, Tammy Hogsett, Julie Howard, Brenda Jackson, Ashley Hanney, Becky Johnson, Chad Johnson, Connie Jones, Patty Jurich, Sheryl Kelley, Ruby Lou Kitchen, Rosie Kurtz, Dawn Lalumondier, Dr. Cynthia Lane, Debbie Lawson, Amy Long, Becky Lovewell, Cindy Lrey, Linnie McCluney, Helen McField, Jamie McMahan, Kye Lyn McMillan, Toni Miller, Nancy Niles Lusk, Lyn Peppers, Linda Prothe, Belinda Rock, Kim Rollings, Deanne Shead, Ana Silva, Mary Steward, Denise Sultz, Marie Thomas, Judy Tucci, Tara Vargas, Jackie Waters, Carol Willard, Gloria Willis

2010 National PTA Reflections Program

May 21, 2010

Kansas PTA is proud to announce the 2010 Reflections Program National Winners. All students whose entries reach the national level of judging will receive a letter of congratulations from National PTA.

Award of Excellence~ Maycee Steele  Mill Creek Elementary; Dance Choreography “Beauty is a Light from Within”
Award of Merit~Hanna La Lande Westridge Middle School; Dance Choreography “For Today”; Riley Ranzau West Elementary School Literature “Greeny 2 goes to the Planet Beauty”; Mickaela Huffpauir Shawnee Mission West High School Photography “Rare Findings”
Honorable Mention~ Danielle Davis Brookridge Elementary Musical Composition; Aaron Thornburg Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Musical Composition; Mick Malara Mill Creek Elementary Photography; Mason Kempf Brookridge Elementary Film Production; Cole Lawrence Westridge Middle School Film Production; Griffin Keeter Belinder Elementary Visual Arts; Kendra Jones Shawnee Mission Northwest High School Visual Arts; Victoria (Tori) Sierant Turner Middle School Literature; Joseph Brallier Turner High School Literature; Nicholas Rothmeyer Lansing Elementary Musical Composition; Mark Taylor Calhoun Lansing Elementary Photography; Hannah Wilson Star side Elementary Literature; William Liu Bentwood Elementary Musical Composition; Erin Sullivan Mill Creek Middle School Photography; Logan Robertson Monticello Trails Middle School Visual Arts;
Austin Coash West Elementary Visual Arts

Kansas PTA would like to thank all of the PTA Units, parents, school staff and school administrators for supporting this wonderful program that encourages the arts within our students!

Congratulations to all of the students!!
Working For All Children,
Lauri DeNooy
Kansas PTA Arts in Education and Awards Chairman
It is hard to believe it is that time of year when we can start thinking about how to encourage our students to participate in this year’s Kansas PTA Citizenship Program as well as the National PTA Reflections Program. Below are this year’s theme and dates of when the entries are due to the various chairmen. Let’s encourage more of our Kansas students to participate in these two rewarding and educational programs to showcase their creativity and talent.

2010-2011 Award Program Dates/Deadlines:

Citizenship Program – What all kids need to know about Citizenship is . . .
Friday, October 22, 2010 Local Unit Chairman
Friday, November 5, 2010 **Council President
Friday, November 19, 2010 ***Region Vice President
Friday, December 3, 2010 Kansas Arts in Education Chairman

Reflections Program – Together We Can
Friday, January 7, 2011 Local Unit Chairman
Friday, January 21, 2011 **Council President
Friday, January 28, 2011 ***Region Vice President
Friday, February 4, 2011 Kansas Arts in Education Chairman

**If your unit is not part of a council, submit your entries to the Region Vice President.
***If the Region Vice President position is vacant for your area, submit your entries to the Kansas PTA Arts in Education and Awards Chairman.

Lauri DeNooy
Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairperson

New Kansas PTA Membership Awards

The Kansas PTA Membership Committee is excited to announce brand new membership awards!

The “Thriving Unit Awards” were developed to encourage our local units to seek additional training and to share the knowledge that they learn with their members.

Thriving Unit Awards

Masters in PTA Award
Units that have submitted their Incoming Officer Form to the Kansas PTA office, filed their 990 with the IRS and sent a copy to the Kansas PTA office, and which have been represented at a Regional PTA training (if available) and a State PTA training.

PhD in PTA Award
Units that have achieved the Masters in PTA Award and have also been represented at a National PTA training.

We look forward to presenting these new awards at the 2011 Kansas PTA Convention. If your unit has any questions about the new awards or anything about membership, please feel to contact either me or the Kansas PTA office.

Thank You and Good luck on a wonderful membership year!

Dawn Lalumondier
KS PTA Membership Chairperson
The Recipe for Raising Drug-Free Kids:
Frequent Family Dinners

Whether you’re gathering around the table for macaroni and cheese or a five-course meal, don’t underestimate the power behind the simple act of taking time to eat dinner with your children regularly. Research has shown that the more often children and teens eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink and use illegal drugs. That’s the reason The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University created Family Day—A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™.

Family Day is a national effort to promote parental engagement as a simple, effective way to reduce substance abuse in children and teens and raise healthier children. Family Day, which is celebrated on the fourth Monday in September – the 27th in 2010 – is gaining significant momentum.

CASA research consistently shows that regardless of a teen’s gender, family structure or social or economic status, frequent family dinners make a difference in teens’ lives. Compared to teens who have five to seven family dinners in a typical week, teens who dine with their families fewer than three nights in a typical week are nearly three times likelier to use marijuana, two and a half times likelier to smoke cigarettes and one and a half times likelier to drink alcohol, according to CASA’s The Importance of Family Dinners IV. The report also found that frequent family dinners are also associated with higher academic performance. Teens who have dinner with their families five to seven times in a typical week are 50 percent likelier to get mostly A’s and B’s in school than teens who dine with their families fewer than three times per week.

This year, celebrate Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™, on Monday, September 27th, by joining parents all across the country to take the Family Day STAR Pledge to commit to:

- Spend time with your kids by having dinner together
- Talk to them about their friends, interests and the dangers of drugs and alcohol
- Answer their questions and listen to what they say
- Recognize that YOU have the power to keep your kids substance-free!

Dinner Makes a Difference!

We encourage everyone to celebrate Family Day by eating dinner together on September 27th and every day. Your organization can play an important role by increasing awareness about the importance of Family Day in your community.

For more local information and items you can use, please see the Kansas Family Day Web site at: http://www.kansasfamily.com/GetInvolved-FamilyDay.cfm or call (800) 206-7231.

The national Family Day Web site can be located on CASA’s Web site: http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/
DOES OUR PTA UNIT NEED INSURANCE?

In a word; yes!

A PTA is a business, and a separate legal entity. As with any other business it is held accountable to the public for its actions, or lack thereof, with which it interacts. The majority of this responsibility lies with current and past leadership, such as the officers of a particular unit. Even though an accident or occurrence is the result of unintentional negligence, it is, nonetheless, considered negligence. This condition often times leads to an allegation or lawsuit, wherein the unit president, and all other officers and directors of the unit and State PTA, are personally and individually named, placing their personal assets at risk (home, vehicles, savings, attachment of future wages and earnings of both individual and spouse). Suits against unit, council, and State PTA leadership can be totally groundless or false, but still require a costly and highly specialized defense (some in excess of $250,000). If the lawsuit is not answered and properly defended, it is lost by default, and a judgment obtained against leadership. Responsibility to the public exposes the PTA and its individual leadership to an element of risk, which can be transferred to another through the use of general liability insurance.

As a member of Kansas PTA, your unit may purchase insurance at an extremely reasonable rate. RV Nuccio provides A+ rated and Admitted insurance products specifically designed for a local PTA Unit. This program is underwritten by the Fireman’s Fund Insurance Company, one of our nation’s oldest and most respected insurance companies. This exclusive insurance program has existed since 1952. Through our carrier, RV Nuccio, you are offered four types of insurance. Your unit is insured from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. You may choose to purchase as many or as few as you wish.

Liability Plus is available to any Kansas PTA unit wishing to purchase it. Coverage is extended to include any officer, director, member of the unit board or salaried employee. Coverage is also extended to any volunteer who is enjoined in suit with the PTA. Simply stated the policy covers any operation or PTA sponsored event on a blanket basis, except those events and coverage’s specifically excluded. (You will receive a booklet stating the exclusions when you enroll.) There is a $1,000,000 limit per occurrence, with defense costs supplemental to that limit.

Bonding Plus is also available to any Kansas PTA unit. A PTA may operate on extremely limited capital and sufficient internal controls are sometimes lacking. Group monies are exposed to loss by dishonesty, forgery, alteration, theft, disappearance or destruction. Bonding Plus covers any elected officer, committee chair (whether elected or appointed), or any member of the organization acting as a volunteer. There is no limit to the number of individuals or positions covered by this policy. Bonding Plus provides protection for the loss of money or property resulting from dishonesty, forgery or alteration of outgoing checks, and the disappearance or destruction of monies.

Bonding Plus contains specific leadership compliance requirements known as the RVNA Warranty System, which acts to increase financial control, and to reduce exposure to financial loss. The following procedures must be installed and maintained. There will be dual, unrelated signatures required on all outgoing checks. There will be no pre-signing of checks. There will be a monthly bank reconciliation (re-balancing of the checkbook) performed by an organization officer other than that officer (usually the treasurer) normally responsible for banking functions.

Directors & Officers Liability (D&O) picks up where Liability Plus leaves off. It provides protection for covered losses resulting from an actual or alleged error or omission, misleading statement or breach of duty. The following are insured under this policy: the PTA unit as an entity, any director, officer, trustee, employee, volunteer, executive, or board or committee member. Property insurance is also available. Most PTAs do not own a significant amount of property and may choose not to purchase this insurance. However, if your PTA has made an investment in any office equipment, carnival booths or other property this insurance will provide the replacement cost of any property loss up to $10,000.00.

Kansas PTA recommends that every PTA unit purchase Liability Plus, Bonding Plus and D&O. Some school districts require PTAs to have liability insurance in order to use school district facilities for their meetings and events.

More information on the insurance can be found at www.rvnuccio.com. Instructions for purchasing and renewing a PTA Policy can be found at their website.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA Treasurer
The “Why’s” and “What’s” of Motions (Part 1)

What is a motion?

A main motion brings business before an assembly (the body of people assembled to transact business). Only members have the right to make a motion. There are other types of motions that propose some sort of action but only a main motion brings business before the assembly.

Note: Business can also be brought forward by previous action; if a motion previously introduced has been postponed – it is automatically brought up at a certain time; or, if the motion was made a “special order.” Main motions may arise out of; reports from officers or committees or some sort of communication. Note: It is not customary to make a motion to receive a communication or committee report.

3 steps for bringing a motion before an assembly:
1. Making a Motion - a member must first “obtain” the floor – he must be recognized by the chair. After recognition he states the motion retaining the right to speak first in debate, if he wishes.
2. Seconding a Motion – a second merely means the seconder (who has to be a member) wishes the motion to come before the assembly – it does not necessarily mean that he supports the motion. If no one seconds a motion the Chairman should ask “is there a second to the motion?” A “second” is not needed if the motion comes from direction of the board or duly appointed committee of the assembly. The purpose of this is to prevent wasting time on motions that only one person wishes to come before the assembly.
3. Stating the Question by the Chair – After the motion has been made and seconded (and if it is in order) the chair states the exact motion. It is now open to debate. This is an important parliamentary principle – debate does not occur until the motion has been stated by the Chair.

If the Chair finds that the motion is not in order, he might suggest alternatives that would be in order. The Chair never finds the maker of the motion “out of order” – it is the motion, not the person that is either “in order” or “out of order.”
After the motion has been stated by the Chair it becomes the property of the assembly and only the assembly can modify it. Before it’s been stated by the Chair, the maker of the motion can still modify his motion as he wishes (or at the request of another member) or withdraw it.

Example:

Obtaining the Floor - Member A: “Mr. President” (or “Madame Chairman”)
Chair recognizes member, giving him “the floor” - Chairman: Mr./Mrs. _____
Making the Motion - Member A: “I move that …”
Seconding- Member B (without obtaining the floor): “Second” or “I second the motion”
The Chair Stating the Question - Chairman: “It is moved and seconded that…..(repeat the motion)” “The Chair recognizes Member A” (Member A can speak to his motion first). Then the Chair states “Are you ready for the question?” (opens debate).

The next steps are: members debating the motion, the chair “putting the question” (puts it to a vote) and the chair announcing the results of the vote. More in “Motions: Part 2.”
Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA Parliamentarian

The Motion is “On the Floor” Now What? (Motions Part 2)

In “Motions Part 1” the first 3 steps to getting the motion “on the floor” were discussed. Now that it is “on the floor” what should and can take place?

3 basic steps (in an ordinary case – unless the motion is adopted by unanimous consent)

**Step 1 – Members Debate the Motion**

The maker of the motion has the right to speak first to the motion if he desires, but, must be recognized by the Chair.

**Principles of Debate:**

- Each member may speak 2 times on the same question on the same day, “but, cannot make a second speech on the same question so long as any member who has not spoken on that question desires the floor.”
- No one may speak longer than 10 minutes at a time without special permission of the assembly.
- Debate is restricted to the merits of the pending question.
- Debate can be limited, extended or closed only by at least a two-thirds vote.
- Keep the debate from getting personal- never debate the motives of another member.
- A member should always direct their debate through the Chairman.

**Amending the Motion:**

An amendment must be germane (directly related to the motion it wants to modify). No “friendly amendments” allowed once the motion is “on the floor” since it now belongs to the assembly. A member who wishes to propose an amendment must first be recognized by the Chair. The Chair will restate the amendment after the member has stated it and it’s been seconded. The assembly will debate it and the amendment may be amended (called a secondary amendment). A vote will be taken and if adopted the amendment becomes part of the main motion.

*There are 3 main ways to amend a motion:*

- Inserting consecutive words or adding consecutive words or inserting or adding a paragraph.
- Striking out words one or more consecutive words or striking out a paragraph.
- Striking out and inserting in the same place. It can also be amended by substituting a completely new motion or paragraph on the same general subject.

**Step 2 – The Chair “Puts the Question”**

When it appears the debate has ended the Chair will state “Are you ready for the question?” If no one wishes to claim the floor the Chair proceeds with the vote. It is important that the Chair makes sure the members know what they are voting on. Normally the vote is taken by voice, but, there are exceptions (see RONR). The Chair calls for the affirmative votes first, then the negative votes. Please see RONR for specifics on voting and types of voting.

**Step 3 – The Chair announces the result of the vote**

As a general rule the chair’s announcement of the result of the vote should include: which side “has it,” whether the motion is adopted or lost, statement of the effect of the vote and if applicable, the next order of business.

Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA Parliamentarian

“Snapshot” of a Motion in Action*

The member wishing to make the motion is recognized by the Chair (Member says -“Mr. President” or “Madame Chairman” and Chairman recognizes member).

The member makes his motion after obtaining the floor.

The motion is seconded – this shows that at least one other person wants the motion to come before the assembly (not necessary if motion comes from a committee or board).

The Chair “States the Question” – this puts the motion “on the floor.” The motion now belongs to the assembly.

The members debate the motion, possibly amending it. They can even amend the proposed amendment (secondary amendment). The amendment (or in the case of a secondary amendment) is taken care of before proceeding with the motion (which will be voted on as amended, if the amendment is adopted).

The Chair “Puts the Question” – that is the chair makes sure the assembly is through debating the question and calls for the vote.

The Chair announces the result of the vote (and includes which side “has it,” whether the motion was adopted or lost, the effect of the vote and if applicable, the next order of business).

*This is in very general terms. Please refer to Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition for specific information.

Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA Parliamentarian

The Magical “Quorum!”

Nothing (well almost nothing) happens at a meeting without a Quorum!

A quorum is required in the standing rules of all Kansas PTA units. If one is not specified then per Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised it is “a majority of all the members.” A quorum is the number of members that can be expected to attend regular meetings of the PTA. This MUST be a number and not a percentage. Once this number has been adopted there has to be that number present at a meeting for any business can legally transacted. The only action that can legally be taken when a quorum is not present is to fix the time to which to adjourn, adjourn, recess, or take measures to obtain a quorum. The requirement of a quorum cannot be waived. Before any voting begins the President or Chairman MUST be assured a quorum is present.

Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA Parliamentarian

National PTA Convention Highlights

The National PTA Convention was held June 9 – 13 in Memphis, TN. Fifteen delegates from Kansas were in attendance at convention representing regions 1, 3, 6, 7 and 8. Kansas delegates attended workshops on a variety of topics and listened to interesting speakers at the general meetings such as Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, Tony and Lauren Dungy representing the All Pro Dad and iMom Morning programs, Mark Levin speaking on membership, Vicky Philips with the Gates Foundation and actress Tichina Arnold.

Kansas PTA submitted two resolutions to National PTA for consideration by the convention delegates. Laura Kaiser spoke to the Youth Mentoring Resolution on the convention floor and Nancy Niles Lusk spoke on the Novelty Lighter Resolution. Both resolutions were passed by the convention delegates. Thank you to Laura and Nancy and to Tammy Bartels who serves on the National PTA Resolution Committee for all their hard work on the resolutions.

Laura Kaiser was elected secretary/treasurer of the State President’s Club and Denise Sultz was elected to the National PTA Board of Directors. Congratulations to both of them!

It was a very successful and fun convention for Kansas PTA.
National

PTA Takes Action

Challenge

Increase PTA’s Voice on Capitol Hill.

Join the PTA Takes Action Network.

As a member of the network, you’ll:

- Receive **monthly updates** on federal legislative issues affecting families, schools, and communities.
- **Speak up for children** through messages to your members of Congress on specific federal policy issues.
- Help your state become the **National Challenge Champion**.

**Join the Network Today!**

**Join online at - PTA.org/TakesAction**

Return Contact information for your Local Leader to sign you up!

First, Last
Name___________________________________________________________

Home
Address________________________________________________________

City, State Zip Code ________________________________________________

Email
Address_________________________________________________________
10 Truths About Parent Involvement

The research is clear and convincing: Regardless of income or background, when parents are involved, students are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, enroll in higher-level programs, attend school regularly, have better social skills, show improved behavior, graduate, and go on to postsecondary education. Here are 10 more truths about parent involvement.

1. All parents have hopes and goals for their children.
2. Parents differ in their abilities and/or resources to help their children reach those goals.
3. The parent is the central contributor to a child’s education.
4. Parent involvement must be seen as a legitimate element of education and deserves equal emphasis with elements such as school improvement and evaluation.
5. Parent involvement is an ongoing process, not a series of events.
6. Parent involvement requires a shared vision, policy, and framework for planning programs and practices that are connected to student learning.
7. Many barriers to parent involvement are found within school practices, attitudes, and assumptions.
8. Successful parent involvement programs help families guide their children’s learning from preschool through high school.
9. Families from diverse backgrounds have their own set of norms and experiences that often influence their relationship with schools.
10. Parents are more likely to become involved when:
   - They understand that they should be involved.
   - They feel capable of making a contribution.
   - They feel invited by the school and their children.
**Kansas PTA Board Roster**

### State Officers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</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 67060</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>6125 Kimball Ave, Kansas City, KS 66104</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          | Nicci Waters                | 220 Alice, Haysville, KS 67060               | 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>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010 Convention Chair</td>
<td>Jackie Waters</td>
<td>1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060</td>
<td>316-522-0706</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>
</tr>
<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>913-548-2254</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>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Wellness</td>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td></td>
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<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/Parent Involvement</td>
<td>Patty Jurich</td>
<td>6125 Kimball Ave, Kansas City, KS 66104</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>Representative of Council Presidents</td>
<td>Tammy Wake</td>
<td>5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
<td>913-831-3668</td>
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<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 67060</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Extension</td>
<td>Rae Ann Kobylinski</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>913-548-2254</td>
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### Consultants / Committee Appointments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Nominating &amp; Leadership Dev</td>
<td>Denise Sultz</td>
<td>9311 West 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Parliamentarian</td>
<td>Laura Kaiser</td>
<td>5222 West 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207</td>
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**Council Presidents**

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>*DeSoto</td>
<td>Chris Akin</td>
<td>4820 Milhedge, Shawnee, KS 66226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Kansas City</td>
<td>Monica Crowe</td>
<td>3047 North 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Salina</td>
<td>Belinda Rock</td>
<td>927 Vassar Drive, Salina, KS 67401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Shawnee Mission</td>
<td>Lauren Meyer</td>
<td>14139 West 84th Terrace, Shawnee Missions, KS 66215</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Turner</td>
<td>Tammy Wake</td>
<td>5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106</td>
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**Office Support**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>*Office Secretary</td>
<td>Sharon Julius</td>
<td>715 S.W. Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*Not a board position.</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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July - August 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.

REMINDER!!

Please remember that the Pledge of Allegiance should always be a part of your unit meetings. The Pledge of Allegiance is an honored activity, one that sets the United States apart. It should always be included on your meeting agenda. Thank you!