Please Make Plans to Attend the 2009 Kansas PTA Convention
April 24 – 26, 2009
Lawrence Holiday Inn & Convention Center
200 McDonald Dr., Lawrence, KS

Have you invited someone to attend the 95th Annual Kansas PTA State Convention with you this year? If not, you still have time. The Early Bird deadline is March 12th. You save $$ and receive a souvenir lapel pin with the convention logo. Sign up early!

Don’t forget to come early and attend either the Grant Application workshop that will give you the tools you need to create successful grant applications for all your funding needs or the Just For Me Workshops designed to enrich your life with healthy and helpful information.

Keynote Speakers for convention this year include:
Mr. Bryan Davis, Director of All Pro Dad - Friday evening
Dr. Alexa Posny, Kansas Commissioner of Education and
Mr. Dennis Johnson – Regional Director, US Census Bureau - Saturday morning
Mr. Rob Nuccio, President and CEO of RV Nuccio & Associates, Inc. - Saturday evening
Mrs. Laura Dobbs, National PTA Representative and
Mrs. Cindy Couchman, Kansas Teacher of the Year - Sunday morning
Spring is here and so is a very unique and important time for all PTAs. This is a time of celebrating the final events of the year and evaluating and planning for the future. It’s a time of transition among the leaders of your unit, too. Nominating committee reports have been (or will be) presented according to your bylaws and standing rules and elections are being held. *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* is a great resource during this time. It contains exact language the PTA President can use when conducting the election. If you have questions, please contact me, your Council President or Region VP.

Speaking of transitioning, National PTA as well as Kansas PTA has resources to help with this process. From E Newsletters to resources on the website and the summer packet CD – you will find helpful tips to “pass on” information to the next administration.

Please take time to evaluate the programs your PTA unit sponsored this past year – were they beneficial to the students, to the school and/or your PTA unit – and make recommendations for next year’s leaders. Make plans now for your current and future leaders to attend training. This is critical, not only for the information they will obtain but also for the networking opportunities they will have with other PTA members. Don’t forget to recognize your volunteers. They are the foundation for all your work.

Our 95th Annual Convention is just around the corner – April 24 – 26th in Lawrence – I hope to see you there!

Thank you for all that you do for the students of our state!

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

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**Kansas PTA 2009-2011 Slate of Nominees**

The Kansas PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee would like to thank all members of the Kansas PTA Board of Managers for their helpful submissions of the 2009-2011 Nomination Suggestion Form. The process of selecting the following slate of officers was based on your submissions and comments while following the Kansas PTA Bylaws, Article VI: Section 12 which governs the actions and duties of this committee as well as the procedures outlined in Kansas PTA Policies and Practices. The committee consisting of the following members: Cynthia Jarrold, Vicky Needham, Shelly Pennington, Denise Sultz and Janet Wood is pleased to report the following slate of nominees for the 2009-11 term of office:

- President-elect: Cynthia Jarrold
- Vice President of Advocacy: Nancy Niles Lusk
- Vice President of Extension Services: Denise Sultz
- Vice President of Member Services: Shelly Pennington
- Secretary: Jackie Waters
- Treasurer: Marie Thomas

The bio of each nominee are located on pages 3 & 4.

“*The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee shall report to the convention on the first day of business, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided consent has been obtained from the nominees. Nominees running from the floor must give thirty (30) days notification before the beginning of the state convention of their intent to run. This notification must be given in writing to the state president and chairman of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee.*” *(Kansas PTA bylaws Article VI, Sec.12)*

Vicky Needham,
Kansas PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Chairman
Cynthia Jarrold, Nominee for President-Elect

Cynthia Jarrold has been nominated for the position of President-Elect for the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers. Cynthia has been active in PTA since 1993. She has served as a unit president at Briarwood Elementary, Mission Valley Middle School, and Shawnee Mission East High School. She is currently the Immediate Past President of the Shawnee Mission Area Council of PTA and Kansas PTA Region 8 Vice President. She is also an adjunct instructor in the graduate program at Ottawa University, where she teaches Professional Ethics, and an adjunct instructor at Central Baptist Theological Seminary, where she teaches Worship.

Cynthia is concerned about issues of equity and justice and is a board member involved in community organizing for a faith-based, social justice organization—Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity—in the Kansas City area. She had the opportunity in that capacity to meet with two members of the Obama transition team in Washington, D.C. in December 2008.

She has a Master of Divinity degree and served for nine years as Minister of Education at Leawood Baptist Church. She is also trained in peace-building and conflict transformation.

Cynthia and her husband, Richard, have been married for 26 years and have two sons—Evan, a senior at Saint Louis University, and Spencer, a sophomore at Shawnee Mission East High School.

Nancy Niles Lusk, Nominee for Vice President of Advocacy

Nancy Niles Lusk has been nominated for the position of Vice President of Advocacy for the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers. Nancy’s involvement in PTA has always been focused in the area of advocacy. During her membership over the span of the last twelve years, she has served in the position of PTA Legislative Chair at her children’s elementary school, middle school and high school, and also served as the Legislative Chair of the Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA for two years. For her activism she has been honored with Kansas PTA Honorary Life Memberships from Pawnee PTA and Shawnee Mission West PTA. Currently she is serving as the State Legislative Chairperson for Kansas PTA.

A native of Lyndon, Kansas, in Osage County, Nancy Niles Lusk grew up on farm and was a 4-H kid. Pursuing a dream to become an illustrator, she first attended Kansas State University, and later Wichita State University from which she received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. In addition, she attended the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, CA for one year. Her first job was as an illustrator in the in-house art department of Beech Aircraft Corporation in Wichita, Kansas. She went on to work for the midwestern illustration and design studio, Hellman Associates, in Waterloo, IA for five years, and then came to Kansas City to free-lance, doing jobs for such clients as Hallmark, Sprint, and the American Girl Collection books.

Nancy is married to James Lusk, also a native of Osage County, and their family lives in Overland Park. James works as an attorney in Lenexa, and both of them have been involved in their church. As the mother of their fraternal triplets, Nathan, Rachel and Thomas, her life has been active in giving support to her children’s many interests, including Scouts and soccer. While her children will graduate from high school this spring and attend college in the fall, she plans to continue being an advocate for strong public K-12 schools.

Denise Sultz, Nominee for Vice President of Extension Services

Denise Sultz has been nominated for the position of Vice President of Extension for the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers. Denise is a long time PTA enthusiast starting her PTA career many years ago as a Great Books leader. Denise has served on many committees throughout 20+ years in PTA and has served in several officer positions including President and Co-President at both the elementary and high school levels, Vice-President at elementary and high school levels, and Treasurer and Co-Treasurer at the elementary school level. She has served on the Shawnee Mission Area Council as School of Instruction Chair and as the Secondary Coordinator. Denise is currently the Kansas PTA Health and Wellness Chairman, 07-08 Audit Committee Chairman and is a member of the Scholarship Committee, the Bylaws Committee and the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee. She is also on the Standing Rules Committee for Golden Oaks PTA. Last October, Denise traveled to Chicago for training at National PTA to help assist units and councils with leadership training. Denise has been blessed to receive the Kansas PTA Honorary Lifetime Membership Award from Comanche Elementary School, Westridge Middle School, Shawnee Mission North High School and Shawnee Mission West High School.

Denise and her husband David have three grown children and a great son-in-law and they stay young-at-heart by continuing their active roles in children’s lives by staying involved, David and Scouting and Denise with PTA. Denise works full-time as a staff accountant at Centralized Showing Services. Denise and her family are members of Village Presbyterian Church where she is a member of the Handbell choir.
**Shelly Pennington, Nominee for Vice President of Member Services**

Shelly Pennington has been nominated for the position of Vice President of Member Services for the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers. Shelly first joined PTA in 2000 when her daughter started at Heusner Elementary School in USD 305 in Salina. She served as T-shirt chairperson the first year and President of the board her second, third and sixth year and 1st Vice-President her third year. Shelly has also served as President of Salina PTA Council for two years and Vice-President for two years. Shelly was honored in 2007 with the Kansas PTA Honorary Life presented by her daughter, Taylor at her 5th Grade Honor Night.

Shelly currently is Salina South Middle School PTA President, where she is finishing her second term and she is also the Salina PTA Council Secretary.

Shelly currently serves on the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers as Kansas PTA Bulletin Editor, Kansas PTA Leadership Chairman, and as a member of the Nominating Committee.

Shelly has served on Site Councils for Heusner Elementary, Grace E. Stewart Elementary and Salina South Middle School. Currently she is Site Council President for Grace E. Stewart Elementary.

Shelly worked for Windstream Communications for 13 1/2 years until the call center was outsourced to India. In May of 2008 she opened Shel’s Little Dreamer Home Daycare which has turned out to be completely rewarding for their family.

Shelly and her husband Todd live in Salina and are the proud parents of 3 children: daughter Taylor, age 13, currently a 7th grader a Salina South Middle School, and a son Cody, age 12 currently a 6th grader a Salina South Middle School, and a son Corey, age 10½ currently a 4th grader at Grace E. Stewart Elementary School. She and her family are involved in scouting and are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. In their spare time they love to bowl.

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**Jackie Waters, Nominee for Secretary**

Jackie Waters has been nominated for the position of Secretary for the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers. Jackie has been actively involved with PTA for 23 years. She has served on her local board a total of 12 years. She has served in the positions as President (4 yrs.), 1st Vice President (2 yrs.), 2nd Vice President (2yrs.), Secretary (2 yrs.), and Treasurer (2 yrs.). She has served on the State PTA board for 8 years. She has served in the positions of Fundraising/Exhibitor Chair, Safety Chair, Region 3 Vice President, and VP of Advocacy. She has attended 16 State PTA conventions and 6 National PTA conventions. She has attended 11 Legislative Conferences, two of which she planned. She is a BSP presenter. She has served on the Resource Development committee, resolutions committee, convention workshop chair, and many other numerous committees for local and state committees. She has represented the PTA at many other organizational groups with booths, workshops, and meetings.

Jackie is very active outside of PTA. She has worked for the school district for 20 years. She is the secretary for an elementary school. She is the chair for her school. She chairs the Health and Wellness committee, site council, and the emergency crisis team for her school. She is a council trainer and camp director for the Girl Scouts.

Jackie has been married for 30 years to Calvin. They have Goofy, Makya, and Kodiak to keep them company now that daughter, Nicci and son, Jason, are out on their own.

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**Marie Thomas, Nominee for Treasurer**

Marie Thomas has been nominated for the position of Treasurer for the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers. Marie has been a PTA Member for over 15 years and is currently serving as the State OMDR Chairperson. She has led several trainings for OMDR at Region Meetings and at the State Convention. She is currently serving as the Co-Chair for the Local Committee at this convention, is on the Awards Committee and the Program Evaluation Committee.

At the local level she is currently serving as Unit President at Mill Creek Middle School in Lenexa. Other positions she has held at the elementary and middle school level have been Treasurer for 1 year, Membership Chair for 3 years, Communications Chair for 1 year, and Caring & Sharing Co-Chair for 1 year. She has also served on many committees over the years.

Besides her work in PTA, Marie is very active in her church and church organizations. She is currently the New Member Assimilation Chairperson at Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee and is on the Church Council because of this position. She also sings with the Ensemble for worship services. In the past she has served as Sunday School Superintendent, Vacation Bible School Kitchen Chairperson, and was a member of the Handbell Choir.

Marie and her husband Ross live in Shawnee. They have three children, Nathaniel (24) in his 6th year at K-State, Joshua (22) in his 3rd year at Concordia Lutheran College in Seward, NE, and Sarah (13) in 8th Grade at Mill Creek Middle School in Lenexa. They also have a granddaughter, Kadence (10 months). Marie currently works part-time for The Personal Marketing Company in Customer Service as a Data Entry Specialist. Her hobbies include scrapbooking, crocheting, and wine tasting trips.
KANSAS PTA BYLAWS - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The following amendments to the Kansas PTA State Bylaws and the Youth Mentoring resolution on page 6 will be presented to the convention delegation for their consideration. Please read them and be ready for discussion.

Article VI: Officers, Their Election and Duties

Section 12: Amend by changing the third and fourth sentences to read as follows: “The members of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee shall be elected by the Board of Managers at the Board of Managers meeting held in July and shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected. The committee shall meet at the close of the July board meeting to select their chairman.”

Present Form: Kansas PTA shall have a Nominating & Leadership Development Committee. The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee shall consist of five (5) members and two (2) alternates. The committee shall meet at the close of convention to select their chairman. The members of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee shall be elected by the board of managers at the Board of Managers meeting held in conjunction with the annual meeting and shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected. The members of the committee shall represent at least three (3) different regions. Class A shall consist of two (2) members and an alternate elected in even number years and Class B, three (3) members and an alternate elected in odd numbered years. Members may not serve more than one (1) consecutive term.

Proposed Amendment: Section 12: Kansas PTA shall have a Nominating & Leadership Development Committee. The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee shall consist of five (5) members and two (2) alternates. The members of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee shall be elected by the Board of Managers at the Board of Managers meeting held in July and shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected. The committee shall meet at the close of the July board meeting to select their chairman. The members of the committee shall represent at least three (3) different regions. Class A shall consist of two (2) members and an alternate elected in even number years and Class B, three (3) members and an alternate elected in odd numbered years. Members may not serve more than one (1) consecutive term.

Rationale: By changing the nomination and election of members of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee to the July board meeting it would ensure those elected would come from members currently serving on the Board of Managers.

Article XIII: Local PTAs/PTSAs

Section 1: Amend by changing d: to read: “Submit a copy of the unit’s completed federal form 990 for the last fiscal year, as required by the IRS, to the Kansas PTA office by January 15th each year and e: then becomes: Meets other criteria as may be prescribed by the individual state PTA.”

Present Form: Section 1: Local PTAs shall be organized and chartered under the authority of the Kansas PTA in the area in which the local PTA functions, in conformity with such rules and regulations, not in conflict with the National PTA Bylaws, as the Kansas PTA may in its bylaws prescribe. The Kansas PTA shall issue to each local PTA in its area an appropriate charter evidencing the due organization and good standing of the local PTA. A local PTA in good standing is one that:

a. Adheres to the purposes and basic policies of the PTA;
b. Remits the national portion of the dues through the State PTA to reach the national office by dates designated by the National PTA;
c. Maintain current uniform bylaws on file according to the procedures of each state;
d. Meets other criteria as may be prescribed by the individual state PTA.

Proposed Amendment: Section 1: Local PTAs shall be organized and chartered under the authority of the Kansas PTA in the area in which the local PTA functions, in conformity with such rules and regulations, not in conflict with the National PTA Bylaws, as the Kansas PTA may in its bylaws prescribe. The Kansas PTA shall issue to each local PTA in its area an appropriate charter evidencing the due organization and good standing of the local PTA. A local PTA in good standing is one that:

a. Adheres to the purposes and basic policies of the PTA;
b. Remits the national portion of the dues through the State PTA to reach the national office by dates designated by the National PTA;
c. Maintain current uniform bylaws on file according to the procedures of each state;
d. Submit a copy of the unit’s completed federal form 990 for the last fiscal year, as required by the IRS, to the Kansas PTA office by January 15th each year;
e. Meets other criteria as may be prescribed by the individual state PTA

Rationale: It is the responsibility of Kansas PTA to ensure individual units adhere to federal regulations as well as units protecting themselves and the students they serve. The IRS requires that the federal form 990 be filed each year and Kansas PTA needs to be assured each unit complies with this IRS regulation.
Youth Mentoring

Whereas, Quality mentoring provides many benefits to the children and youth served and there exists a need for more youth mentors in Kansas and across the country; and

Whereas, It is important for organized mentoring programs to adhere to recognized quality program standards for the safety of all children and youth served; and

Whereas, Both timely and affordable state and federal fingerprint-based background checks are necessary for a thorough screening of prospective mentors; and

Whereas, Adequate funding is necessary both for high quality youth mentoring programs and to increase the number of youth served; therefore be it

Resolved, That Kansas PTA, its units and councils, work to educate the public about the need for youth mentors; and be it further

Resolved, That Kansas PTA, its units and councils encourage the utilization of recognized quality program standards by youth mentoring programs; and be it further

Resolved, That Kansas PTA advocate for legislation and other initiatives that provide youth-serving programs with timely and affordable fingerprint-based background screening – including FBI and KBI – of prospective volunteers; and be it further

Resolved, That Kansas PTA advocate for initiatives that help fund quality mentoring programs and research.

Rationale

Although the importance of mentoring (i.e., a structured, trusting relationship that brings together young people and caring individuals) has been recognized at both state and federal levels, it is estimated that there are currently over 15 million young Americans in need of a mentor. Mentoring has been shown to improve motivation, to improve the attitude our children have towards life, and to give our children much-needed skills and knowledge.

While there has been positive movement, much still needs to be done. A 2006 survey of Kansas mentoring programs revealed that inadequate funding was one of the main issues hindering the development of mentoring programs; a little over half of mentoring programs registered with Kansas Mentors have been recognized as Gold Star Programs, or programs that ensure a safe and quality mentoring environment. Also, in a national background check pilot program up to 6 percent of volunteers were found to have serious criminal records. Adoption of this resolution allows PTA to encourage high-quality standards in youth mentoring, advocate for timely and affordable fingerprint-based screenings, advocate for adequate funding, and educate the public about the need for mentors.

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

KANSAS PTA BULLETIN
President: Jan Long
Editor: Shelly Pennington

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

Permission granted to local, council, region, and state PTAs to reprint articles for PTA use. Credit must be given to the Kansas PTA. All others requesting permission to reprint articles from this publication must contact the Kansas PTA State Office.

Whenever PTA is used it also refers to PTSA. PTA and PTSA (Parent-Teacher Student Association) are registered service marks of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. National Parent Teacher Association is also a registered name, as is the National PTA and Kansas PTA. Only organizations chartered by the PTA may use its name.
Call to Convention!
April 24-26, 2009
at the Lawrence Holiday Inn & Convention Center

Did you check out the workshop selection in the convention packet? Wow – what a line up!!! There is a workshop for everyone – from training for PTA leaders to educational topics. Be sure to fill out your workshop choices when you return your registration form.

Check Out our Pre-Convention Workshops for Additional Learning Opportunities - Just for Me Workshops are New this Year! These pre-convention workshops are loaded with helpful information and fun demonstrations that are sure to make your life healthier and happier. Come take all three and see what they have to offer you!

Grant Application & Management for Results—Kansas PTA is fortunate to be able to offer our registered delegates the opportunity to take a 3 hour workshop “Grant Application & Management for Results” for Free! This workshop is also being offered to Non Conference participants at the incredibly low price of $59.00. (The normal registration fee for this training would be $299.00). Please let your Educators know that in these difficult economic times, this is a great opportunity to receive Grant Training at an extremely affordable price without having to pay out of state travel costs. This workshop is being presented by Gail Vertz, CEO of AAGP (American Association of Grant Professionals). With the prospect of budget cuts, the need for outside funding sources will be greater than ever.

Silent Auction—Have you thought about bringing an item for the Silent Auction this year? It’s easy – your item (or items) can be something that you make; that you bought or that you had donated by a business. Just bring them to Lauri Denooy or Monica Crowe, the Silent Auction Chairmen, on Friday (or as soon as you arrive at Convention) and they will take care of them. And while you are at the Silent Auction – check out the other items! Make a bid! Have fun with trying to “outbid” the other delegates! What will be the “popular” item this year?? It might just be yours!!

Returning this Year! The 4th Annual PTA Walk! - We talk a good game about fitness and health – well we’re doing something about it! Come join the Kansas PTA Board of Managers Sunday morning at 6:30 AM to enjoy nature’s beauty and tranquility and get a little exercise to start the final day of convention. Hope to see you all on the path!

Special Educator & Special Volunteer—Have you thought about that special educator or volunteer who deserves to be honored? If not, there is still time. Find the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame application on the Kansas PTA website under the “Resources” tab or in your Summer Packet mailing – fill out the form and return it today with your check and your enthusiasm!

OMDR Plus Lab—Kansas PTA will sponsor an OMDR Plus lab at the state convention this year. The lab is designed to help units learn about the new system and to facilitate the changeover by units using the current OMDR system. Units interested in getting started at convention should bring contact information (name, phone, email, etc) for the designated Administrator and a back-up administrator. Computers will be set up and PTA leaders will be available to help guide you through the process. If you have questions you can contact Tammy Bartels, KS PTA Vice President of Extension Services at racefan@sunflower.com.

Lifetouch will once again sponsor an evening of food and fun at the Kick Off Party on Friday evening after the Region meetings. DJ Kirby from Mix 93 FM will be there to keep us hopping with plenty of tunes & karaoke. So don’t miss out on all the fun! Come and enjoy, relax with old PTA friends and meet new PTA friends.

Doughnuts with Dad—Be sure to let all the guys know that Doughnuts with Dad will be held Sunday morning especially for them.

Patty Jurich
2009 Convention Chairman
Take a Step Towards Heart Health at the Kansas PTA Convention

Heart disease is not just for men. As the leading cause of death for women, nearly twice as many women in the U.S. die of coronary heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases than from all forms of cancer combined. The American Heart Association urges everyone to “take action to reduce heart disease risk:

- Be physically active,
- Don’t smoke,
- Eat healthy,
- Maintain a normal weight, and
- Know your numbers.

Kansas PTA has partnered with Flu Busters to help you “Know Your Numbers.” During convention exhibit hours you can get four health screenings important for your heart health:

- **Cholesterol** is important to your heart health and high cholesterol can lead to coronary heart disease and stroke;
- **Diabetes** affects over 23 million children and adults in the U.S. but about 25% do not know they have the disease. Untreated, diabetes can cause heart disease, blindness, and other major health problems;
- A **body fax index** is the best way to measure overweight and obesity, a major risk factor for heart disease, diabetes, some cancers, stroke and other diseases;
- High **blood pressure** affects about 1/3 of all adults in the U.S. usually without symptoms. Undiagnosed, high blood pressure can damage your heart, kidneys, blood vessels and other parts of your body.

The total cost of these heart health screenings is $20.00. You must pre-register and pre-pay for this heart health clinic before convention by clicking the link on the Kansas PTA website www.kansas-pta.org or by calling Flu Busters toll-free at 866-782-3014. A minimum of 50 pre-paid registrations are required or the clinic will be cancelled. If the clinic is cancelled registrants will be notified and fees will be reimbursed.

**Beth Brown**

2009 Kansas PTA Exhibits Chairman

For information regarding convention, contact the Kansas PTA Office at 785-234-5782 or kansaspta@gmail.org. The complete convention packet can be found on the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org.

2009 PTA National Convention

113th Annual PTA National Convention & Exhibition
Friday, June 26–Monday, June 29, 2009
Greater Ft. Lauderdale Broward County Convention Center, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Join thousands of parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to national convention each year to enhance their skills, connections, and success! Convention is a legitimate expense as members receive invaluable training during the workshops and great ideas from networking with other units.

- **Education** — Choose from 30+ workshops
- **Exhibits** — Visit more than 200 exhibitors
- **Issues** — Raise your voice on national business and emerging issues
- **Resources** — Gather 100s of ideas, handouts, giveaways —interact with 1,000s of other PTA leaders from around the country

Registration and hotel information will be available **March 2009** on the National PTA website [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

Please notify me at Debbie@burlislawson.com if you plan to attend so I may send you the proper information and materials. Hope to see you in Ft. Lauderdale!

**Debbie Lawson**

Kansas PTA President Elect
# Reflections Winners

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<td>Senior Award of Merit</td>
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<td>Jaden Gragg</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission Northwest PTA</td>
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| Dance Choreography                     | Outstanding Interpretation        | Samantha-Mae Meyer | Mill Creek Middle PTA        |

| Musical Composition                    | Outstanding Interpretation        | William Liu        | Bentwood Elementary PTA      |
|                                        | Primary Award of Excellence        | Isabelle Cunningham| Corinth Elementary PTA       |
|                                        | Primary Award of Merit             | Adam Costello      | Lansing PTA                  |
|                                        | Middle/Junior Award of Excellence  | Akshay Dinakar    | Mill Creek Elementary PTA    |

| Photography                            | Outstanding Interpretation        | Aaron Coash        | West Elementary PTA          |
|                                        | Primary Award of Excellence        | Rylee Crowell      | Belinder Elementary PTA      |
|                                        | Primary Award of Merit             | Brody Williams     | Starside Elementary PTA      |
|                                        | Primary Award of Merit             | Nicholas Rothmeyer | Lansing PTA                  |
|                                        | Intermediate Award of Excellence   | Cassidy Spreadbury| Mill Creek Elementary PTA    |
|                                        | Intermediate Award of Merit        | Josh Riess         | Bentwood Elementary PTA      |
|                                        | Intermediate Award of Merit        | Skylar Martell     | Lansing PTA                  |
|                                        | Middle/Junior Award of Excellence  | Corey Kirkpatrick  | Mission Valley Middle PTA    |
|                                        | Middle/Junior Award of Merit       | Mikaela McCabe     | Monticello Trails Middle PTA |
|                                        | Middle/Junior Award of Merit       | Tara Dupras        | Lansing PTA                  |
|                                        | Senior Award of Excellence         | Mike Gunnoe        | Shawnee Mission South PTA    |
|                                        | Senior Award of Merit              | John Howard        | Turner High School PTSA      |

| Film/Video Production                  | Outstanding Interpretation        | Thomas Allen       | Mission Valley Middle PTA    |
|                                        | Intermediate Award of Excellence   | Logan Bennion      | Briarwood Elementary PTA     |
|                                        | Middle/Junior Award of Excellence  | Daniel Gum         | Bentwood Elementary PTA      |
|                                        | Senior Award of Excellence         | Jacob Schnackenberg| Shawnee Mission West PTSA    |

| Visual Arts                            | Outstanding Interpretation        | Ellie Wilson       | Riverview Elementary PTA     |
|                                        | Primary Award of Excellence        | Austin Coash       | West Elementary PTA          |
|                                        | Primary Award of Merit             | Griffin Keeter     | Belinder Elementary PTA      |
|                                        | Primary Award of Merit             | Cam Burns          | Lansing PTA                  |
|                                        | Intermediate Award of Excellence   | Thomas Atkins      | Lansing PTA                  |
|                                        | Intermediate Award of Merit        | Sydney Asher       | Briarwood Elementary PTA     |
|                                        | Middle/Junior Award of Excellence  | Logan Robertson    | Monticello Trails Middle PTA |
|                                        | Middle/Junior Award of Merit       | Anthony D’Amato    | Ray Marsh Elementary PTA     |
|                                        | Senior Award of Excellence         | Anastasia King     | Junction Elementary PTA      |
|                                        |Senior Award of Excellence          | Mihan Lester       | Shawnee Mission Northwest PTA|
## Citizenship Winners

### Poetry

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<td>Nadia Suhail</td>
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<td>Leah O’Connor</td>
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<td>Hanna Lalonde</td>
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<td>Nouksapha Phomsouvanh</td>
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<td>Madison Rebel</td>
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<td>Kara Lewis</td>
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<td>Emily Dodd</td>
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<td>Chloe Hubler</td>
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<td>JD Howard</td>
<td>Turner High School PTSA</td>
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<td>Tricia Worden</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission West PTSA</td>
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### Essay

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<td>Mykah Wright</td>
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<td>Santa Fe Trail Elementary PTA</td>
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<td>Sarah Meyers</td>
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<td>Miriah Beikman</td>
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<td>Yakira Chadman</td>
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<td>Maegann Parsons</td>
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<td>Max Hofmeister</td>
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<td>Andrew Litzler</td>
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<td>Evan Patsis</td>
<td>Piper PTA</td>
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## PTA Teacher Appreciation Week

PTA Teacher Appreciation Week — celebrated the first full week in May since 1984 — is about forging positive partnerships between families and teachers. It’s about saying thanks for teachers’ dedication to excellence in education. It’s about supporting teachers throughout the year through cooperation, collaboration, and expressions of appreciation.

Encourage your local units to make PTA Teacher Appreciation Week, May 3–9, 2009, part of their spring events for families, students, and the community. Activity ideas and other planning resources are available at [pta.org/teachers](http://pta.org/teachers).
Family Fun, Food, and Fitness Mini-Grants Awarded

The following Kansas schools are recipients of the Family Fun, Food, and Fitness mini-grants provided through the collaborative efforts of the Kansas Department of Education and Kansas Families and Schools Together, Inc (KFAST): Starside Elementary, USD 232, De Soto; Morris Elementary, USD 202, Kansas City; Rushton Elementary, USD 512, Mission; Heusner Elementary, USD 305, Salina; Apache Elementary, USD 512, Overland Park; Broken Arrow Elementary, USD 497, Lawrence.

KSDE and KFAST will be offering these mini-grants again in Fall 2009. Contact your principal, school nurse or contact me at dansks@aol.com for more information. Please make sure your school has a chance to participate in hosting a great fitness event.

Denise Sultz
Kansas PTA Health and Wellness Chairman

Save the Date!

“PTA Night at the K”
is set for Friday evening, May 15th!

More information will be sent via e blasts to unit presidents and placed on our website about purchasing tickets for your unit! We look forward to having a great turnout at Kauffman Stadium.

Keys to Leadership Passport

Reminder: Don’t forget to send in your Keys to Leadership Passport form by March 15th so you can receive your award and pin at Convention.

Shelly Pennington
Kansas PTA Leadership Chairman

Healthy Living and the 3 R’s

Getting an education about healthy living is all about going back to the basics and knowing those 3 R’s, Reading, wRiting, and aRithmatic. How are they related? 1) Reading—Read food labels. Know the calories in a serving. Know the fat content. Look for those hidden ways that salt and sugar are added into processed food. 2) wRiting—Start a food journal. Write down everything that you eat (include portion sizes) and find a source to actually find out how many calories that you consume in a week. People who use a food journal lose more weight than those who do not. 3) aRithmatic—Know your numbers. Know your BMI, BMR, Waist size and Waist to Height Ratio to name a few. These numbers will help you understand how your body loses and gains weight. The best way to understand how to help your family become healthier is to understand how to be healthy yourself. Come to the Kansas PTA Convention in April and participate in the Walk for Healthy Kids and sign up for the Sunday morning workshop, Healthy Living: It “ain’t” that hard. We will incorporate the 3 R’s into our discussion and help you get the motivation to make the little changes that make a big difference. If you personally would like to get in better shape, take the time to check out the National PTA Video store at pta.org. There are close to thirty videos that are exercise/dance related that can help you get in shape in the comfort of your own home. I ordered mine!!

Denise Sultz
Kansas PTA Health and Wellness Chairman

Limited Engagement
April 27 – May 15
Save a Date for Your School!
Stay tuned for more information

COMING SOON
TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU!
PTA Movie Night Live 2
LEGISLATION MOVING AT A FAST PACE

Keep your television and radio tuned in on the news in the upcoming weeks and months. It’s getting very exciting for legislation. Things are happening and changing quickly with the new administration of President Obama, the new Cabinet, Senators, and Congressmen.

There are many things coming up that will be affecting our children’s health and wellness, education, funding, and more. It is important that you keep aware of what is happening. Go to the National PTA’s website at www.pta.org to keep up with issues that National PTA is concerned about. Sign up for PTA Takes Action for the Federal Policy Updates and Member to Member while on the website for email updates on issues. Refer back to your Grassroots Advocacy Tool Kit for help.

You have to be very aware of details and protocol when working with your state and federal legislators. Here are some tips for working with lawmakers:

1. Establish your agenda and goals.
2. Listen well.
3. Be prepared, but don’t feel that you need to be an expert.
4. Don’t stay too long.
5. Remember you are there to build a relationship.
6. Follow-up is important.

You need to know your topic forward and backwards that you are addressing. Limit your number of topics to 3. Your time will be limited with your legislators, so know what you want from the visit. Keep focused on the topic which you are discussing. Show your respect by listening to what they have to say. Always thank him or her for their time. Leave room to continue the discussion at another time. Be sure to send a thank-you note after the visit. If commitments were made in the meeting, repeat your understanding of them. If staff members were present, write to them, too. They can often be important allies.

If you can’t visit your legislators, you can email or write to them. The easy way to email them is to:
1. Go to www.kansas-pta.org
2. Click on Legislative on the tool bar
3. Click on write to congress
4. Type in zip code
5. It will bring up federal and state legislators

Now is the time to really become involved with legislation. It is time for change. Your voice can help to make a change. Get involved.

Jackie Waters,
Kansas PTA VP of Advocacy

NEW OFFICER FORM REMINDER!

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner. In PTA land that means the end of a school year is upon us. Has your unit had elections? Have you submitted the new officer form to the State PTA office? This year again, in order for your unit to receive the summer packet material – we will need this form turned. Don’t be left out, there is amazing information to help your unit grow and be even better than it already is!

The form is available on the Kansas PTA website www.kansas-pta.org.
Please Say “Thank-you”

Great progress
It’s official. Our public schools have done an extraordinary job in raising student achievement. Kansas education commissioner Dr. Alexa Posny has said, “I use the word ‘phenomenal’ when describing the achievement of our students across all grade levels in Kansas.”

How do we know?
The Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit released a report that measured the positive outcomes of the current multi-year school finance plan, which has increased investment in our schools: “We have found a strong association between the amounts districts spend and the outcomes they receive.”

Some of the results:
• Since 2000, student proficiency has increased on state assessments in reading by 42%, math by 61%, science by 53% and history/government by 43%.
• Kansas has risen in rank nationally from 12th in 2003 to 7th in 2007 in the combined proficiency ranking of the National Assessment of Education Progress math and reading tests.
• Test scores of low income, minority, disabled, and English language learned students, where additional funding was targeted, have increased faster than average, narrowing the “achievement gap.”
• Kansas ACT scores have increased for six straight years, and have increased twice the rate of the national average.

Here are links to learn more:
www.kasb.org/legis/WhatMoreFunding.pdf

Other benefits:
Statewide, teacher salaries rose 11%, helping recruitment and retention of good teachers. The addition of $57 M for student and instructional support improved teacher effectiveness.

How did we do it?
Kansas Association of School Boards explains it well: “These benefits would not have been possible without the support of a narrow majority of Kansas Legislators who saw in the Supreme Court’s [Montoy v. Kansas] decision an opportunity to invest in the students of Kansas and reap the benefits for years to come . . . the House and Senate will determine whether this progress is maintained and extended, or whether Kansas schools and students will be allowed to fall behind.”

The future?
With the current state budget crisis, public school funding will not be spared in taking a substantial hit. It is regrettable that just as improvements have been taking off, they are coming to a halt – an unfortunate major step back.

With relish or regret?
Whether a legislator regards the pending cuts of public education with relish or regret tells much of their attitude towards public schools. Either way, please let them know where YOU stand on the value of quality educations for our children.

The added benefit – the economy
K-12 education is critical to long-term economic security. “States which invest more in education and produce high educational attainment enjoy greater economic prosperity. In this region, Kansas and other highly educated states are top economic performers. States with low education outcomes trail despite lower taxes.”

Say THANK YOU!
Instead of complaining to a legislator of the pending budget cuts, perhaps a better course is to tell him or her you are aware and appreciative of the great gains that the recent public education funding increases have accomplished. You will be sending the same message, that you are thankful and supportive of the increased tax dollars spent, and you desire restoration of the funding levels as soon as possible. A thank-you communicates it in the most positive way.


Nancy Niles Lusk
Kansas PTA Legislative Chair.
Prevent Fraud and Theft in your PTA
An Internal Controls Checklist

“It Ain’t Your Money”…It is not your money, it has been entrusted to you. It is your responsibility to keep it safe and working toward the PTA mission and purpose. Here’s how you can help prevent fraud and theft in your PTA.

1. Have and follow Internal Controls that discourage fraud.
   a. The trusting environment of a non-profit organization is exactly what a dishonest individual exploits.
   b. Any system that can be abused will be abused.
   c. Make sure you always review your insurance policy and loss control guide.
   d. Check your loss control guide for any additional internal control requirements.

2. Talk about fraud.
   a. Make it well known that theft will not be tolerated and that prosecution will result.
   b. Promote the safeguards to reduce and mitigate fraud (see below).
   c. Encourage whistle blowers to come forward by sharing the PTA’s written procedures that deal with fraud (as directed below).

3. Preventing fraud involves constant supervision of the PTA’s assets and inventory.
   2 Signatures on All Accounts
   a. Never pre-sign checks.
   b. Limit the number of bank accounts (no online access) and authorized check signers.
   c. Make bank deposits daily when money is received.
   d. Reconcile Check Book Monthly – NO EXCEPTIONS
   e. Have the Bank Statement opened and reviewed by someone who is not on the account.
   f. Separate duties between two or more individuals, so that no one person has complete control of any of the PTA’s cash.

4. Develop and adhere to vendor selection policies.
   a. Fraudsters set up fictitious vendors and conspire with dishonest vendors.
   b. Run vendor addresses through a review process to see if any match each other and/or a volunteer’s addresses.
   c. Require that vendors supply tax identification numbers.
   d. Do not pre-pay. Use COD.
   e. Use local vendors.
   f. Make sure vendors know they have competition.

5. Establish standard billing policies.
   a. Billing schemes have been identified as the number one cause of fraud in nonprofits.
   b. Develop authorization procedures for purchase orders/vouchers, invoicing and payments.
   c. All purchase orders/vouchers should have a specific description of items, quantity price, terms, delivery requirements and dates.
   d. Establish a reimbursement policy that maintains original receipts for reimbursements.

   a. Many times, the fraudster is someone who is known, liked and trusted.
   b. There exists general reluctance among nonprofits to report and prosecute fraudsters due to a fear of notoriety, fear of legal action brought by the fraudster, concern about personal safety and compassion for the offender.
   c. In addition, to letting down donors, a decision not to prosecute fraudsters also lets down the children, parents and the PTA itself.
   d. When meeting with the fraudster a neutral private territory and request the presence of a council or state PTA member.

7. Action steps to take to correct situation.
   a. Determine if insurance covers the loss.
   b. Consider whether to call the police and the district attorney.
   c. Consider whether to meet with the individual.
   d. Consider whether repayment is sufficient.

For more information on internal controls see Money Matters and the Kansas Treasurers Guide 2008-2009.

Sharon Rakos
Kansas PTA Treasurer
Kansas PTA Board Roster

State Officers

President .................................................. Jan Long .................................. 1400 Louise Lane, Salina, KS  67401 ........................................ 785-827-9996
President-Elect ........................................ Debbie Lawson .................. 801 N. 83rd, Kansas City, KS  66112 ........................................ 913-328-1256
VP Advocacy ........................................... Jackie Waters ....................... 1417 Loring, Hayville, KS  67606 ........................................ 316-522-0706
VP Extension Services .............................. Tammy Bartels .................. 504 S. Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS  66086 ........................................ 913-417-7031
VP Member Services ............................... Beth Brown ..................... 2400 N. 62nd Street, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........................................ 913-271-5955
Secretary .............................................. Patty Jurich ......................... 6725 Kimball, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........................................ 913-334-6051
Treasurer .................................................. Sharon Rakos ..................... 10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66221 ........................................ 913-708-5501

Region Vice Presidents

Region 1 Vice President ................................ Vacant ........................................  .................................................................................................................................
Region 2 Vice President ..................................... Sheryl Peak ...................... 2609 Coronado Street, Great Bend, KS  67530 ........................................ 620-792-6427
Region 3 Vice President ..................................... Nicci Waters .................. 220 Alice, Hayville, KS  67060 ........................................ 316-544-8001
Region 4 Vice President ................................... Janet Wood ...................... 148 Florida Ave., Salina, KS  67401 ........................................ 785-827-8635
Region 5 Vice President .................................... Vacant ........................................  .................................................................................................................................
Region 6 Vice President .................................... Chris Akin ..................... 4820 Millridge, Shawnee, KS  66216 ........................................ 913-422-3756
Region 7 Vice President .................................... Monica Crowe ............. 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........................................ 913-299-3583
Region 8 Vice President .................................... Cynthia Jarrold ............ 9107 Reeds Drive, Shawnee Mission, KS  66207 ........................................ 913-381-1543

State Chairman

Art in Educations & Awards .................................... Vacant ........................................  .................................................................................................................................
Budget Committee ....................................... Sharon Rakos ..................... 10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66221 ........................................ 913-708-5501
Bylaws Review ............................................ Lauri DeNooy .................. 12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS  66215 ........................................ 913-548-7277
Bulletin Editor ............................................. Shelly Pennington ........... 310 E. Minneapolis Ave., Salina, KS  67401 ........................................ 785-820-0200
Federal Legislative ....................................... Jackie Waters ....................... 1417 Loring, Hayville, KS  67606 ........................................ 316-522-0706
Health & Wellness ....................................... Denise Sultz ...................... 931 W. 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66204 ........................................ 913-381-7824
Inclusiveness / Diversity Leadership .................... Kayla Crowe .................. 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........................................ 913-299-3583
Leadership .................................................. Shelly Pennington ........... 310 E. Minneapolis Ave., Salina, KS  67401 ........................................ 785-820-0200
Membership ............................................... Beth Brown ...................... 2400 N. 62nd Street, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........................................ 913-271-5955
OMDR ......................................................... Marie Thomas ............... 22833 W. 44th Street, Shawnee, KS  66226 ........................................ 913-422-7841
Parent Involvement ...................................... Shirlyn Richardson .......... 2709 N. 13th Street, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........................................ 913-371-4309
PTA Store / Meeting Assistant ......................... Sheila Bunnell ............. 7028 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS  66106 ........................................ 913-375-1652
Publicity / Marketing ..................................... Vacant ........................................  .................................................................................................................................
Representative of Council Presidents ................ Julie Howard ................... 134 N 71st, Kansas City, KS  66111 ........................................ 913-299-4877
Resolutions Committee ................................ Jackie Waters ....................... 1417 Loring, Hayville, KS  67606 ........................................ 316-522-0706
State Bylaws .............................................. Debbie Lawson .................. 15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS  66219 ........................................ 913-541-0806
State Legislative ......................................... Nancy Niles Luk ........................................ 7700 W. 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS  66204 ........................................ 913-648-2616
State Extension .......................................... Diana Fabac ..................... 5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS  66106 ........................................ 913-375-1644
Website ....................................................... Robert DeNooy .................. 12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS  66215 ........................................ 913-548-2254

Consultants / Committee Appointments

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

Council Presidents

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

Office Support

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

*Not a board position.
This issue of the Bulletin is available on our website. Emails are available on the website.
### MARCH

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1. Phoebe Apperson Hearst Applications are due
2. Women’s History Month begins
3. Music In Our Schools begins
4. Awards Ceremony in Lenexa, KS
5. National Nutrition Month begins
6. Read Across America
7. Daylight Savings Time
8. St. Patrick’s Day
9. PTA Chorus of Voices for Children Week begins
10. Close of PTA membership year

### APRIL

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1. PTA Chorus of Voices for Children Week ends
2. Women’s History Month begins
3. Music In Our Schools begins
4. Awards Ceremony in Lenexa, KS
5. National Nutrition Month begins
6. Read Across America
7. Good Friday
8. Easter
10. Earth Day
11. Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
12. Arbor Day
13. Kansas PTA Convention
14. National Volunteer Week begins

#### Alcohol Awareness Month

- April 1
- April 2
- April 3
- April 4
- April 5
- April 6
- April 7
- April 8
- April 9
- April 10
- April 11
- April 12
- April 13
- April 14
- April 15
- April 16
- April 17
- April 18
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- April 20
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- April 22
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- April 24
- April 25
- April 26
- April 27
- April 28
- April 29
- April 30

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

---

**Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers**

715 S.W. Tenth

Topeka, KS  66612-1686

Telephone: 785-234-5782

Toll Free: 888-311-5782

Office hours: 8-12:30 M-F

Fax: 785-234-4170

Email: kansaspta@gmail.com

Website: www.kansas-pta.org

March—April 2009

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**Return Service Requested**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

---

**Kansas State PTA Convention**

April 24—26, 2009

Lawrence, Kansas

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**National PTA Convention**

June 26 - 29, 2009

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida