Don’t forget to attend the 97th Annual Kansas PTA State Convention in Lawrence this year!! Have you invited someone to attend with you? If not, you still have time to get registered for Convention. The Early Bird Deadline is March 15th. Sign up early and receive a souvenir lapel pin with the convention logo!

Hear GREAT SPEAKERS! Attend GREAT WORKSHOPS! Bid at the SILENT AUCTION! Shop at the PTA STORE! Enjoy FOOD & FUN TIME! Network with PTA FRIENDS from across the state!. Come and join all your PTA Friends in Lawrence as we EMBRACE ALL CHILDREN!! We’ll see you at Convention!
Kansas is fortunate to have wonderful PTA leaders in our communities and school buildings who work very hard to support family engagement in education for our children. Thank you for the work you do each and every day on behalf of Kansas children.

As our schools face shrinking budgets, growing class sizes, programs and services being cut, they need the support of PTA. PTA can help by providing proven programs to increase family and male involvement in the school building, programs to enhance arts education in the Citizenship and Reflections programs, programs to encourage healthy lifestyles, and programs to support volunteer efforts in the school building such as Three for Me. PTA also supports fund raising for educational efforts, we fight for funding for public education on the state and national level and we seek to bring schools and communities together.

The National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships encourages families, schools, and communities to work together to support student success and achievement. The National Standards were written into the Kansas Commission on Graduation and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Final Report which was recently sent to the Governor. PTA recognizes that family engagement in education benefits our children and our communities by uniting efforts for a quality education and working toward that goal.

Training opportunities are an added advantage of belonging to PTA. PTA provides training in a variety of areas such as leadership, family engagement, safety, advocacy, membership, community building and the school environment. Join us for the Kansas PTA convention April 29 – May 1 at the Holiday Inn in Lawrence for an exceptional training experience. Please see the Call to Convention or visit the website (www.kansas-pta.org) for a listing of speakers and workshops being provided at this year’s convention. We hope to see you there!

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Here’s one to consider. How many members of your local school board started as a parent volunteer? As a trustee, I have had the honor of speaking at a number of school board association events. When I ask that question at these events, it is amazing how many hands are raised. This example shows that PTA is a training ground for leadership.

Now I’ll admit, for some people, leadership fits easily, and for others it is a challenge. But being a leader at any level shows true commitment to your school, your community and yourself. Volunteers often take for granted how important being a PTA leader can be—on your resume, to your community, and to your self-confidence.

Today more than ever, our PTAs, schools, and communities need leadership as a voice to those who make decisions and as a source of positive examples to serve as a guide to others. Many individuals, organizations, and governmental bodies look to PTA to bring to the table parents, teachers, administrators and the community to deal with both simple and challenging issues. So answer this important question for yourself: Are you willing to step up and be a real leader?
KANSAS PTA CONVENTION TIME!!
WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

Convention Packet – Have you received yours yet? Make sure to check out the Workshops being offered and sign up! Be sure to fill out your workshop choices when you return your registration form.

Special Guest Speaker – Victor Pacini! Don’t forget to attend Friday evening to hear this inspirational speaker. You don’t want to miss this exciting and excellent speaker! Come and enjoy the fun!

Region Meetings! Don’t forget to attend your Region Meeting Friday evening from 8:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Region VP’s for the 2011-2013 term will be elected during this meeting!

Election of New Kansas PTA Officers! This is an election year. Please congratulate, meet and party with our new Officers! Join us Saturday evening for food and fun with DJ Kirby from Mobile Mix 93 and our new officers!!

First ever PTA Apron Auction! The Executive Committee of Kansas PTA will be decorating aprons to be auctioned at Convention. The officers will model their creative aprons Saturday morning and then they will be put in the Silent Auction area to be bid on by delegates. All proceeds will go the Kansas PTA Endowment Fund which supports Kansas PTA Programs.

Silent Auction! Have you thought about bringing an item for the Silent Auction this year? It’s easy – your item (or items) can be collectibles, crafts, gift items, household items, something you bought or that you had donated by a business. Just bring them to Tammy Wake, Silent Auction Chairman, on Friday (or as soon as you arrive at Convention) and she will take care of them. The items will be displayed on tables for open bidding. All monies benefit our Dollars to Scholars program.

Honor that special Volunteer or Educator! Don’t forget to honor them with a $10 donation at the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame. The money will be donated to the Kansas PTA Scholarship Fund. The honored individuals will receive a letter from Kansas PTA announcing they were part of the Wall of Fame and who submitted their name. There will be a display at convention honoring them.

We hope to see you in Lawrence! Remember to bring your donation, your checkbook and your enthusiasm! Come join all your PTA Friends from across the State of Kansas for this wonderful Convention!

Marie Thomas, 2011 Convention Chairman
Tammy Bartels is nominated for the position of President-Elect. Tammy has served on the Kansas PTA Board of Managers for 10 years and held many positions. She has served as the Safety and Programs Chairman, OMDR Chairman, Vice President of Extension Services, and Vice President of Membership and Organizational Services (now known as Vice President of Member services). She has headed up many committees including Strategic Planning, Resolutions, Convention Workshops, Convention Local Committee, and Convention Chairman.

At the National level Tammy serves on the National PTA Resolutions Committee and has authored two resolutions that have been adopted by National PTA. Tammy has also served as a local unit President, Secretary and Vice President.

Tammy’s other volunteer service includes coaching and managing several youth soccer teams, serving as a Cub Scout Pack Committee Chairman, teaching First Aid and CPR for the American Red Cross and chairing this year’s Senior Class After Graduation committee. Tammy lives in Tonganoxie with her husband Robert and their two children; Alexandria who is a senior in high school and William who is in 4th grade.

Denise Sultz is nominated for the position of Vice President of Member Services. Denise started her PTA career at Comanche Elementary School in the Shawnee Mission School District. Her first role was as a discussion leader for the Great Books program. Through the course of three children, she led many committees, and served as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer at Comanche. As her children moved up to the higher grades, so did Denise and she served as a Vice President at Shawnee Mission North PTA and as a President and Co-President at Shawnee Mission West PTSA. Denise served as a committee chair for School of Instruction for the Shawnee Mission Area Council, as Citizenship Chair, and as the Secondary Coordinator.

On the state level Denise has held the position of Health and Wellness Chair and currently serves as Vice President of Extension Services. Denise has served as the chair of the Audit Committee, chair of the Kansas PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee and has served on the Legislative, Bylaws, Scholarship, and Arts & Education committees for Kansas PTA.

Denise is currently serving a two year term as a member of the National PTA Board of Directors. Denise and her husband David have three grown children and live in Overland Park, KS.

Toni Miller is nominated for the position of Treasurer. Toni has been involved in PTA for the past four years. She served two years as Treasurer of her local unit and is this year’s President. She is a very active member of Schilling Elementary School PTA. This year as her daughter entered into middle school, Toni has become a semi-active member of South Middle School PTA also.

Toni headed up the school carnival committee this school year. She helped head up the 5th grade honor’s night committee last year. The past two years, Toni has served on the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers as the Leadership Chair.

Toni has two school age children and works full time for the City of Salina. Other activities include serving two years as the Internal Coordinator for the United Way at work and was involved in Girl Scouts for two years (one year as co-leader and cookie chair and one year on the Management Team).
Marie Thomas is nominated for the position of Secretary. Marie has been a PTA Member for over 15 years and is currently serving as the State Treasurer and State Secretary/Treasurer for Golden Oaks PTA. She is the past State OMDR Chair. She has led several trainings for Treasurer’s and OMDR at Region Meetings across the state and at State Convention. She is currently serving as 2011 Convention Chair. Marie was honored in 2009 with the Kansas PTA Honorary Life Membership from her local PTA Unit, Mill Creek Middle School in Lenexa.

At the council level she is currently serving as Vice President for the DeSoto Area Council. At the local level she has served as Unit President, Unit Treasurer, Membership Chair, Communications Chair, and Caring & Sharing Co-Chair at the elementary and middle school level. 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. 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 and two grandchildren. Nathaniel & Katie and children Kadence and Carter live in Manhattan, Kansas. Joshua graduated from Concordia University and currently attends Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. Sarah is a sophomore at Mill Valley High School in Shawnee. Marie currently works at The Personal Marketing Company in Customer Service as a Data Entry Specialist and has been with the company for 6 years. Her hobbies include scrapbooking, crocheting, and wine tasting trips.

Patty Jurich is nominated for the position of Vice President of Extension Services. Patty has been involved with PTA for 24 years and has held many different positions at the local, council and state levels. She has served as President at two elementary PTA’s, the high school PTSA, two terms as Council president for the KCK Council of PTA and Region 7 Vice President. She has held many officer and chairman positions at the various levels and currently serves as Scholarship and Parliamentarian for the KCK Council.

Patty has been on the Kansas PTA Board of Managers for 14 years, serving in several positions including Secretary, Convention Chairman, Scholarship Trustee Chair, Safety Chair and on various committees. She currently serves on the Legislative, Resource Development, Budget & Finance, Virginia Peak, and Convention Committees, is Co Chairman of the Youth Advisory Committee, and is Vice President of Member Services. She has represented Kansas PTA on the 2010 Kansas Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, Safe Kids Coalition, and the Robert C. Byrd Federal Scholarship Selection Committee. She has completed training in phase 1 & 2 of National PTA’s Training Capacity Building Initiative including Moderation and the Building Successful Partnerships. Patty has received 2 Kansas PTA Honorary Life Membership Awards from Hazel Grove Elementary and the KCK Council of PTA. Patty is married to Michael and they have three children, Nick, Lauren & Kristin, daughter-in-law Vanessa, son-in-law Ben and have two granddaughters, Aurora and Sophia, Grandson Cullen and are expecting a fourth grandchild in May. She has three cats, Binkey, Dini, and 3 month old Renni.

Debbie Lawson is nominated for the position of Vice President of Advocacy. She has been a strong PTA supporter for over 20 years serving in various capacities at the local, council and state level including local unit president and numerous chair positions at the local, council and state level. She is currently serving as the Kansas PTA State President. Advocacy has been her main area of focus writing a program on underage drinking called Dare to Care challenging parents and students to work together to combat the problem. Debbie believes that family engagement and training parents to advocate for their children is the key to a child’s quality education and successful learning experiences. Her volunteer efforts also include Boy Scout leader for all three of her sons, religious education teacher, and serving on her homes association board. She has been inducted into the Lenexa Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Debbie holds a degree in Marketing/Management and works full time as office manager for her husband’s company. She lives in Lenexa with her husband Jay, sons Bryan and Matt and two dogs, Ollie and Chuck.
Region Meetings

Region meetings will be held on Friday night, April 29, 2011 at the Kansas State PTA Convention in Lawrence. The nominating committees from each region should be meeting to come up with a nominee for their Region Vice President as it is an election year. If you are interested in serving as a Region VP, contact a member of the nominating committee. Contact your Region VP if you don’t know who is on your nominating committee. If you have any concerns or questions, please bring them to the region meeting. It is a great time to get to know others from your region and hear what others are doing in their local units. Hope to see all of you at the region meetings.

Jackie Waters, President – Elect

Kansas Silent PTA Auction

The Kansas PTA Silent Auction is a great opportunity to donate to a worthy cause and have fun at the same time!

The Kansas PTA Silent Auction takes place every year at the annual Kansas PTA Convention.

All proceeds from the Silent Auction go toward scholarships for future teacher educators within the state of Kansas. As the 2011 State Convention approaches, we want to encourage all Regions, Councils and Units to partake in this particular event. Through the years many individuals, agencies and companies have put together various packages ranging from sports and entertainment items/packages, crafts, handmade quilts and other wonderful items for our delegates to bid on.

Help us support future teachers in Kansas by allowing us to provide scholarships. If you would like to partake in this event or need additional information, do not hesitate to contact Tammy Wake Kansas PTA Silent Auction Chair.

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

Tammy Wake - Silent Auction Chair

Kansas PTA 97th Annual Convention

Special Guest Speakers include:

**Friday Evening:** Mr. Victor Pacini, Inspirational Speaker and Author

**Saturday Morning:** Ms. Nicolette Geisler, Kansas Mentors
Ms. Jeannette Nobo, Kansas Department of Education

**Saturday Evening:** Mr. Curtis Chandler, 2011 Kansas Teacher of the Year

**Sunday Morning:** Mrs. Laura Bay, National PTA Representative
Proposed Changes to the Kansas PTA State Bylaws

The Kansas PTA Bylaws Committee recommended and the Kansas PTA Board of Managers approved the following motion be voted on at the Kansas PTA Convention: "Move to strike the word resolution and insert the word motion in Article XIII, Section 8, subsection a, b and c."

#ARTICLE XIII: LOCAL PTAs/PTSA

Present Form:

Section 8. A local PTA or PTSA may dissolve and wind up its affairs in the following manner:

a. The Executive Committee (or other body that, under its bylaws, manages the affairs of the local PTA or PTSA) shall adopt a resolution recommending that the local PTA or PTSA be dissolved and directing that the question of such dissolution be submitted to a vote at a special meeting of members having voting rights. Written or printed notice stating that the purpose of such meeting is to consider the advisability of dissolving the local PTA or PTSA shall be given to each member entitled to vote at such meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting.

b. Written notice of the adoption of such resolution, accompanied by a copy of the notice of the special meeting of members, shall be given to the President of the Kansas PTA at least twenty (20) days before the date fixed for such special meeting of the members.

c. Only those persons who were members in good standing of the local PTA or PTSA on the date of adoption of resolution and who continue to be members in good standing on the date of the special meeting shall be entitled to vote on the question of dissolution.

Proposed Amendment:

Section 8. A local PTA or PTSA may dissolve and wind up its affairs in the following manner:

a. The Executive Committee (or other body that, under its bylaws, manages the affairs of the local PTA or PTSA) shall adopt a motion recommending that the local PTA or PTSA be dissolved and directing that the question of such dissolution be submitted to a vote at a special meeting of members having voting rights. Written or printed notice stating that the purpose of such meeting is to consider the advisability of dissolving the local PTA or PTSA shall be given to each member entitled to vote at such meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting.

b. Written notice of the adoption of such motion, accompanied by a copy of the notice of the special meeting of members, shall be given to the President of the Kansas PTA at least twenty (20) days before the date fixed for such special meeting of the members.

c. Only those persons who were members in good standing of the local PTA or PTSA on the date of adoption of motion and who continue to be members in good standing on the date of the special meeting shall be entitled to vote on the question of dissolution.

Rationale: It currently states to dissolve a unit the local PTA must adopt a resolution recommending that the PTA or PTSA be dissolved. The language is confusing because a resolution indicates a document with specific, often difficult criteria. Resolutions are difficult to write and must contain back up information with whereas statements. It scares the individual member when they read this statement, thinking they couldn’t possibly write a resolution. To dissolve a unit, it must notify members 30 days before hand of a meeting to discuss and then a MOTION is presented to be voted on. A motion is not nearly as difficult to write as a resolution.
Parents for Public Schools By Vicki Tucci-Whisenant

Parents of public school students need to learn to better understand the importance of being engaged and involved in their child’s education. It is always in their child’s best interest that parents support their child’s decisions and communicate with all the educators involved with their child/children. We, as parents have every right to know what is going on in our public schools and we should want to be involved in the decision making processes that affect us and our children in our neighborhoods of our country.

In this ever changing world in which we live, so much is available at that we are not taking advantage of. There are often resources out there for us and we don’t even know they exist. The U.S. Department of Education offers tons of information and resources for programs available to all parents. (Visit Ed.gov) Parent Information and Resource Centers or PIRC’s are extremely helpful in implementing successful and effective parental involvement policies, programs, and activities that lead to improvements in student achievement and help to strengthen partnerships among parents, teachers, principals, and all school personnel. Numerous projects are being developed to help engage parents in education!!!

Take time to explore what is available in your community. One example is a national organization with community-based chapters called Parents for Public Schools. The organization’s chapters are working in public schools to improve education. Visit parents4publicschools.com to see numerous links for organizations that provide resources for advocacy, training, and other types of assistance. This website also offers links to all the local chapters which offer a range of services such as trainings, outreach events, and information on school enrollment.

Proposed Kansas PTA Resolution

Education Support for Homeless Students

Whereas adequate and permanent shelter is a basic need, and its absence has a negative and long lasting impact on the education of children and teens, including increased truancy, lower standardized test scores, increased likelihood of being held back, and increased mental and physical health problems, and

Whereas the number of children and teens who are without permanent shelter continues to grow, and the number at risk of becoming homeless is even larger, and

Whereas there exists federal laws that protect homeless students and ensure they receive a free and appropriate public education but many families and teens are not aware of these protections and services, therefore be it

Resolved that Kansas PTA and its constituent associations educate its members about the existence and needs of homeless students in Kansas and their school district, and be it further

Resolved that Kansas PTA and its constituent associations share information about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with its members and partner organizations, and be it further

Resolved that Kansas PTA and its constituent associations support legislation and services that protect the educational rights of homeless children and teens, as well as those designed to help reduce the likelihood of them becoming homeless in the first place.
Kansas PTA announces its “New Year, New Opportunities” Membership Contest!!!

The Prize: A wonderful field day package (see image), plus playground balls and sidewalk chalk. Valued at $350.

This prize is beneficial for all units…even middle and high schools. What better way to welcome the community into supporting your school than throwing a family field day?!?

Contest Rules:

Existing Units: Receive 1 entry for every 10% you increase your membership over last membership year. If your unit increases its membership by 30% over last year…your unit receives 3 entries!

New Units: Receive 1 entry for every 15 members you submit to Kansas PTA. If your unit turns in 100 members, you will receive 6 entries into the contest!

Membership increases are based on ending numbers from last membership year (April 1, 2010). All members must be received in the Kansas PTA office, with payment, by March 31, 2011 to be eligible. Winner will be announced at the Kansas PTA convention April 29 – May 1, 2011. Must be present to win.

Please be sure to market this contest throughout your community!
IRS FILING REQUIREMENTS AND PTA UNITS

Well it is that time of year again where all Americans are thinking about filing taxes. That wonderful job of gathering all the information needed and either calculating your own or paying to have your taxes prepared. The frustration of it all can drive a person insane. However, we all know the penalty if we do not take the time to do this every year. You don’t file taxes; you pay fines and penalties, or in some cases go to jail. This holds true for individuals and for companies in this country.

So what makes people think that associations are not liable and are not held to those same laws and rules? PTA is a non-profit association which is also seen by our government officials as a “company”. It is required by law to file an IRS990 form every year. The deadline is 6 months after the end of your fiscal year. So if the end of your fiscal year is June 30th, which it is for most PTA units, then you are required to file this form by November 30th of that year. If you do not file for 3 consecutive years, your status as a “Non-profit” is stripped from your unit.

What happens if you do not file just one year? Well let me tell you from experience; I took the office of President this school year. I was surprised to find that the tax form for the previous year had not been filed. I immediately contacted the CPA that had been doing the taxes for a few years and she stated that she never received the books to do the taxes. She advised me to get the books to her as soon as possible and she would do both this year’s and last year’s filings. She also advised that more than likely the IRS would not have a problem with not receiving the filing. They were done, and sent to the IRS with plenty of time to spare. The week of Christmas, I received a notice from the IRS; we owed no taxes from that previous year, no interest but they wanted to penalize my unit $2,000.00 for not filing the taxes on time. Boy was I shocked and really mad; because the failure to perform the duties of office that were bestowed on former PTA board members was going to cost the students of this elementary school the opportunities to go on field trips, provide snacks during testing time and other events. We must remember that in the eyes of our government, our local units are considered companies, that when you take a board position on any PTA board, that you have duties that you are required to perform because failure to do so can cost your unit money or a suit for failure to act on the behalf of the members or students of that school. You are also required to send a copy of your filed IRS 990 to the Kansas PTA State board office and do not ignore any mailings you receive from the federal or state governments.

How does my story end? We were lucky; we had an extenuating circumstance where there had been several Presidents within the first 3 months of that school year and the IRS dismissed the penalty that had been assigned. Bottom line: act responsibly, keep on top of what you are required to do each year and have fun with your school and students. It will save you a whole lot of time and money if you make sure to file your taxes each year.

Leadership Passports

REMINDER: Keys to Leadership Passports are due into the Kansas State PTA office by March 15, 2010 so you can receive your award and pin at Convention.

Please contact the Kansas PTA State office at 1-888-311-5782 for your Keys to Leadership Passport.

- Toni Miller Kansas PTA Leadership Chairperson
2010-2011 Kansas PTA Citizenship Winners

Kansas PTA would like to thank all of our students who participated in this year’s Citizenship Program “What all kids need to know about Citizenship is. . . “. The following students are this year’s winners:

**Poetry**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Award of Excellence</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Julia Feuerborn</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Madison Cole</td>
<td>Bluejacket-Flint Elementary</td>
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<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Emily Koke</td>
<td>Bentwood Elementary</td>
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<td>Tristan Davis</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Julia Parnes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Bradley Teasley</td>
<td>Riverview Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
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<td>Tommy Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
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<td>Molly Mong</td>
<td>Mission Valley Middle</td>
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<td>8th</td>
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<td>Indian Woods Middle</td>
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**Essay**

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<td>Isabella Nelson</td>
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<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Bayley Woodson</td>
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<td>Sylvia Rivera</td>
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<td>Whitney Burke</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Clark Harris</td>
<td>Clear Creek Elementary</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Davis Brooks</td>
<td>Belinder Elementary</td>
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<td>7th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Libby Gregor</td>
<td>Trailridge Middle</td>
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<td>8th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Josh Gregory</td>
<td>Trailridge Middle</td>
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<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Chase Cabral</td>
<td>Shawnee Mission South H.S.</td>
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The 2011-2012 Citizenship theme is:
I Should Volunteer in my Community because . . .
Strong Kansas Schools Foster Robust Kansas Economy

By Mary Sinclair, KS PTA State Legislative Chair

Kansas public schools have played a critical role in the economic success of our state and are a key factor in the recovery of our economy. In their promotional materials to recruit and retain businesses across the state, the Kansas Department of Commerce even references our well educated labor force and commitment to education spending\(^1\). In addition, Kansas schools have been highly effective at leveraging every penny of our educational dollars. However, the choices we face this current legislative session will either sustain or break this trend. The new proposed education budget, while bolstering the teacher retirement fund, would drop Kansas rankings for per pupil expenditures well below the national average - and performance outcomes would soon follow.

While immediate funding cuts to classrooms across the state — the proposed reduction in base state aid per pupil — may resolve the current substantial, yet short-term, state budget deficit, this choice may actually be the more expensive option. Many districts will need to lay off teachers in order to balance local budgets, thus increasing our state’s unemployment rolls. Additionally, many districts will need to cut effective programs and staff that are critical for engaging marginalized students and keeping them on track to graduate.

The benefits of such targeted programs are typically 2.5 times greater than the costs, yielding net benefits over $125,000 per graduate (Levin, 2007; Alliance for Excellent Education, 2009). Kansas loses an estimated $2.6 billion in lost tax revenues and increased costs of public health, criminal justice, and welfare payments from the 9,500 high school youth annually who do not graduate (see http://www.all4ed.org/files/Kansas_wc.pdf). The costs and consequences of a weak public school system are too high for both the individual and society.

What's Happening: PTA Advocacy and Legislative Report

Nancy Niles Lusk, KS PTA Vice President of Advocacy

2011 Kansas PTA Advocacy Day was a satisfying success in the number of key legislators we saw, insights we gained, and advocacy accomplished. Summary information from the day will be sent via the email legislative updates soon. I am so pleased with the excellent job the participants at the state capital did in speaking on behalf of our kids. And we appreciate the cyber support we had from the rest of you, too! Take a bow and be proud of our united effort.

Speaking of legislative successes, National PTA scored a big one this past year with their efforts, especially those of James Vanderhook, PTA Health Policy Analyst, in helping achieve the passage of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, also called the Child Nutrition Act. Kansas PTA forwarded National PTA's Action Alert on Dec. 2 to inform you of the urgency, because there was little time remaining in the 111th Congress, and it was the last chance for this historic legislation to become law. Since passage National PTA has received much grateful acknowledgement that it likely "could not have been done without PTA's steadfast support at every level."

The law will provide healthy, nutritious options in schools so our nation’s students can reach their physical and academic potential. "At a time when one-third of American youth are either overweight or obese and one-fourth are at risk of hunger, this legislation makes a significant investment to increase access to vital anti-hunger measures, and improve the nutrition quality of all foods served in schools throughout the school day...to meet the needs of American children." National PTA will continue to be closely involved with the implementation of these reforms.

CAPWIZ! Check out this great advocacy tool! Find out who your state and federal legislators are and contact them! You can find the Capwiz link at www.kansas-pta.org. Also sign up for the National PTA Action Alerts. Kansas PTA helps pay for this legislative advocacy service and we need you to utilize it or else we might lose this powerful tool that makes it easy to do the right thing--be a united voice for kids.

2011 National PTA Public Policy Agenda National PTA has posted the new 2011 federal public policy agenda at www.pta.org. Review it for a quick way to get up to speed on the important federal issues effecting children. The bullet point formatting makes the information easy to understand.

Kansas PTA State Convention We will have one of the best advocacy workshop line-ups ever at a state convention, so take advantage and make plans to attend. The convention is scheduled for APRIL 29 - MAY 1, 2011 at the Holiday Convention Center in Lawrence. It would be terrific if every PTA unit could make sure to send someone to receive and relay the advocacy training and information presented! (For a complete listing of ALL the workshops, go to the KS PTA state convention information online at www.kansas-pta.org).

Panel Discussion and Analysis / Update: 2011 KS Legislative Session
- Dale M. Dennis, Kansas Department of Education
- Mrs. Janet Waugh, Kansas State Board of Education member
- Scott Rothschild, Statehouse Reporter for the Lawrence Journal World
- Burdett Loomis, K.U. Professor of Political Science

Child Nutrition Extremes bringing kids down / Obesity Risks to Good Health / Hungry kids can't learn. Gary Brunk, Director of Federal Policy & Special Projects for Kansas Action for Children.

Answers to Questions about KS School Finance / Background overview. Mark Tallman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Parent/Family Engagement programs that work / How to improve parent involvement and academic outcomes. Jane Groff, Director of the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)

Advocacy 101 workshop / Learn the basics of PTA advocacy. Mary Sinclair, Ph.D., KS PTA State Legislative Chair & Nancy Niles Lusk, KS PTA Vice President of Advocacy
Awards Ceremony Announcement

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

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

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

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

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

From Your State Treasurer …

990 Filing! Did you file your 990-N or 990-EZ for the fiscal year July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010? These were due to the IRS on November 15, 2010. In order to remain in good standing with State PTA guidelines, a copy of either the confirmation email or a copy of the report that was sent to IRS needs to be in the State Office as soon as possible. Please email your confirmation from the IRS to kansaspta@gmail.com. If you mailed your form to the IRS, please mail a copy to the State Office.

Budgets! It is that time of year when our PTA Units need to check their Budgets to make sure that they are on track! If adjustments need to be made, make them at your PTA General Meeting with recommendations coming from the PTA Executive Board. It is also time to review your financial statements and make adjustments for next year’s tentative budget. It might be a good idea to have a special meeting with the outgoing board and incoming board to discuss the tentative budget. You can discuss what worked and what didn’t work with the new board in attendance. Please make sure your Principal is involved in the Budget Process also. He/She may have ideas to present to the PTA Budget Committee concerning staff needs for their classrooms because of budget cuts in their particular school districts. Don’t forget to budget for Insurance, State Convention, & National PTA Convention. These are important for great leadership and training and should be included in your budgets!

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either by phone or email.

Marie Thomas - Kansas PTA Treasurer
Kansas PTA Board Roster

State Officers

President    Debbie Lawson  15719 West 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219  913-541-0806
President-Elect   Jackie Waters  1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060  316-522-0706
VP Advocacy   Nancy Niles Lusk  7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-648-2616
VP Extension Services   Denise Sultz  9311 West 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-381-7824
VP Member Services   Patty Jurich  3314 N 128th Court, Kansas City, KS 66109  913-334-8051
Secretary  Lauren Meyer  14139 West 84th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215  913-599-0656
Treasurer  Marie Thomas  22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-302-6178

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 66106  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

2011 Convention Chair   Marie Thomas  22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-302-6178
Arts in Education & Awards  Lauri DeNooy  7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-548-7277
Budget Committee   Marie Thomas  22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-302-6178
Unit Bylaws Review   Diana Fabac  5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-375-1644
Bulletin Editor   Robert DeNooy  7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-271-6992
Federal Legislative   Nancy Niles Lusk  7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-648-2616
Health & Wellness   Sarah Baker  10710 West 92nd Street, Overland Park, KS 66214  913-307-0036
Inclusiveness / Diversity   Michelle Sierant  1015 South 49th Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-287-5313
Leadership   Toni Miller  813 Mermly Drive, Salina, KS 67401  785-819-4684
Male Involvement  Allen Bradley  1516 N. 85th Place, Kansas City, KS 66112
Member Outreach/Family Engagement  Patty Jurich  3314 N 128th Court, Kansas City, KS 66109  913-334-6051
Membership  Dawn Lalumondier  8907 W 52nd St, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-642-3340
OMDR  Tammy Bartels  504 South Delaware, Tonganoxie, KS 66086  913-417-7031
PTA Store / Meeting Assistant  Sheila Bunnell  7026 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-375-1652
Publicity / Marketing  Vicki Whisenant  2901 N 51st, Kansas City, KS 66104  913-334-9075
Rep. of Council Presidents  Tammy Wake  5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-831-3868
Resolutions Committee   Tammy Bartels  504 South Delaware, Tonganoxie, KS 66086  913-417-7031
Resource Development  Jackie Waters  1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060  316-522-0706
State Bylaws Jackie Waters  1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060  316-522-0706
State Legislative Mary F. Sinclair, PhD  5801 Locton Lane, Fairway, KS 66205  913-513-3126
State Extension  Rae Ann Kobyinski  8530 Barkley, Overland Park, KS 66212  913-341-9124
Website   Robert DeNooy  7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  913-271-6892

Consultants / Committee Appointments

*Nominating & Leadership Dev  vacant
*Parliamentarian  Laura Kaiser  5222 West 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207  913-341-3078

Council Presidents

*DeSoto  Chris Akin  4820 Millridge, Shawnee, KS 66226  913-422-3756
*Kansas City  Monica Crowe  3047 North 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104  913-299-3583
*Shawnee Mission  Karen Wagner  9708 Russell Street, Shawnee Mission, KS 66212  913-648-8268
*Turner  Tammy Wake  5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106  913-831-3868

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Return Service Requested

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.