Greetings from Kansas State PTA President  

~ Denise Sultz

As a long time advocate for children, I watch today’s news from Topeka and from Washington, DC and wonder how it will all turn out. As a long time advocate for children, I know I must keep speaking up for the values that I want for our children of today and for our children and grandchildren in the future. As a long time advocate for children, I want good quality schools for every child in every zip code. I want them to feel safe and have food to eat and a roof over their head. I want them to have access to dental and health care. I want so many things for the children of Kansas, the United States, and of the World.

I grew up in poverty but had food. I grew up in poverty but had a roof. I grew up in poverty but I had a free, public school, quality education and that made the difference in where I am today. I want that for every child. I don't know why it seems to be too much to ask.

If you want these things for your child, and the children of your friends and neighbors, and the children of Kansas and the US and the World, then continue to speak up for those values that we hold precious. Watch for legislative alerts, reach out for quality information on what is happening, and speak up and out to those who represent you by making new law. Your voice DOES make a difference.

When a school PTA or a member of that PTA reaches out to us for help, we always recommend that the officers and members of that PTA attend training. Although we can help a school out individually with one issue, having 2, or 3, or 4 plus members come to meet with other PTA members from across the state makes a huge difference in the level of understanding of each person that attends. Ask your fellow PTA officers and members to commit to one Saturday in April for training and fellowship with Kansas PTA. If you do not have training dollars set aside for this purpose, see if you can find it. Look in your budget for unused dollars, look for donations, share the cost of driving, do what you can to reach out for more...to be the best....for the children and families of your school.

We'll be waiting to greet you!

Your Kansas PTA President - Denise
13 Ways to Get the Word Out

We’re halfway through another school year, but that doesn’t mean your PTA communications should be tapering off. Here are 13 ways you can reach the parents in your schools about your PTA:

1. Send emails to your membership. Encourage your members to “Share with a Friend” to reach even more parents.
2. Use the school’s email service to reach an even wider audience.
3. Facebook page. You can share information from Kansas PTA and National PTA, plus create events and promote the great things your PTA does.
4. Send flyers home in backpacks. This is still a tried and true way to get the word out about what is going on in your PTA.
5. Twitter page. Millennial parents love Twitter. Get your PTA out there with short tweets.
6. Ask teachers to communicate events to students.
7. Use the school’s daily announcements to mention PTA happenings. Ask the office staff to include short blurbs about your upcoming activities.
8. Utilize a bulletin board in the school’s entryway/hallways. Talk to the principal about having a dedicated PTA bulletin board to post your news.
9. Hang posters around the school for visibility to the students, teachers and parents.
10. Post yard signs or banners to advertise meetings or other key events.
11. Set up a table at school events. Be present in the school as much as possible.
12. Have a PTA info table at your PTA events.
13. PTA Meeting Tonight stickers (available at PTA Store at www.kansas-pta.org)

You’ve got what it takes to win — read below and then log in to your Dashboard for more!

Here’s how you could get chances to win* right now:

- **Ultimate Challenges (open until March 31, 2017)**: Work with your team to create the Ultimate FUTP 60 Song, Dance or Smoothie and team up with your Program Advisor to submit it on his or her Educator Dashboard! Winners get $1,000 for their schools — that’s a lot of cash!

- **Are You In? Join the Team (open until March 31, 2017)**: Get new friends on board for their chances to win! Students who create new accounts will be eligible for a chance to win a $100 FUTP 60 Prize Pack!

- **Team Up (every month through May)**: Make sure you have a teacher signed up as a Program Advisor on FuelUpToPlay60.com and you earn enough Points to achieve Level Three (35,000 Points) for your chance to win a $100 FUTP 60 Prize Pack!

- **Challenges (every month through May)**: Complete Challenges on your Dashboard every month for your chance to win a $100 FUTP 60 Prize Pack!

**NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid is Headed to Super Bowl LI!**

Congratulations to FUTP 60 Kansas State Ambassador Sophie for winning the title of NFL PLAY 60 Super Kid, presented by Danimals! Follow her adventure [here](#) and watch her hand off the game ball at Super Bowl LI!
### CONGRATULATIONS State Citizenship Winners!!

It’s an exciting time for the Kansas PTA Arts team! We finished up the Citizenship and Reflections entries judging and have submitted the Reflections entries to National PTA. We are very excited by the talent of our Kansas kids. Please be sure to mark your calendars to join us at the Kansas PTA Arts Awards Assembly on Friday, April 28th, at the Kansas PTA Convention. We will celebrate our award-winning artists and showcase their amazing talent for all of you to see.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Award of Excellence</th>
<th>Award of Merit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Grade</td>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Joe Toma Highlands PTA</td>
<td>Megan Tillery Turner Elementary</td>
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<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Emily DelRio Junction PTA</td>
<td>Nick Van Deventer Rising Star Elementary</td>
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<td>Essay</td>
<td>Sandra Hogya Mill Creek</td>
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<td>Ethan Nickolett Indian Hills</td>
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<td>8th Grade</td>
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<td>Duncan Gibson Westridge</td>
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<td>Ella Coon Indian Hills</td>
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<td>Essay</td>
<td>Stuti Dalal Shawnee Mission East</td>
<td>Margo Hunter Shawnee Mission South</td>
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<td>Sara Miriani Shawnee Mission East</td>
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<td>Elizabeth O’Connor Shawnee Mission East</td>
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<td>12th Grade</td>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>Thomas Villa Turner High School PTSA</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Poetry</td>
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CONGRATULATIONS State Reflections Winners!!
At this time, we’d also like to celebrate our Reflections Theme Search winners.

The following student’s themes have been advanced to the National level of competition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“The future holds…”</td>
<td>Andrew Schnake</td>
<td>Westridge Middle</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>“What if I could?”</td>
<td>Eric Qiang</td>
<td>Westridge Middle</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>School</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>“It starts with me”</td>
<td>TJ Villa</td>
<td>Turner High School</td>
<td>12th</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Division</th>
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<th>Award of Excellence</th>
<th>Award of Merit</th>
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<tr>
<td>PRIMARY (Pre-K-2)</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Caroline LaTessa</td>
<td>Trailwood</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Choreography</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Film Production</td>
<td>Gabriel Matthew</td>
<td>Broken Arrow</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Kate Hipp</td>
<td>Trailwood</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music Composition</td>
<td>Caroline LaTessa</td>
<td>Trailwood</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Josie Pflium</td>
<td>Ray Marsh</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>Ethan Broxterman</td>
<td>Demetri Stadlman</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Riverview Elem</td>
<td>Corinth Elem</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERMEDIATE (3-5)</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Kamdyn Wedel</td>
<td>Riverview Elem</td>
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<td>Choreography</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Film Production</td>
<td>Jack Corral</td>
<td>Oak Park Carpenter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>Nick Van Deventer</td>
<td>Rising Star</td>
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<td>Music Composition</td>
<td>Ishya Bhavsar</td>
<td>Briarwood</td>
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<td>Photography</td>
<td>Jaxon Garcia</td>
<td>Riverview Elem</td>
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<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>Maddie Tuohy</td>
<td>Trailwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)</td>
<td>Dance</td>
<td>Soloe Young</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Film Production</td>
<td>Ella Fosburg</td>
<td>Mill Creek</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Literature</td>
<td>William Foss</td>
<td>Indian Woods</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Music Composition</td>
<td>Ishara DePaepe</td>
<td>Indian Hills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Photography</td>
<td>Laura Bogner</td>
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<td>Visual Arts</td>
<td>Grace Strongman</td>
<td>Timothy Neslen</td>
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<td>HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)</td>
<td>Film Production</td>
<td>Thomas Villa</td>
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<td>Literature</td>
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<td>Photography</td>
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Kansas PTA Convention Time
What you Need to Know

April 28-30, 2017
Savior Pastoral Center - Kansas City, Kansas

The Kansas PTA Call to Convention was sent in February. Have you received yours yet? If not, you can check it out on our website: Kansaspta.org or request a copy from the office by emailing kansaspta@gmail.com.

Training - Make sure to check out the training workshops being offered and sign up now! We have workshops on membership, governance training, advocacy, and parental information. Please remember to fill out your workshop choices when you return your registration form.

Special Guest Speakers - Not only do we have two of National PTA's most amazing women, Miss Karin Kirchoff and Miss Jacki Ball, we have additional speakers that will be announced through Facebook and Twitter throughout the next month. Not signed up to Kansas PTA's Facebook Page? Do so now!! We hope you will check out our very own "Take me Out to Convention " video for your personal invitation!

Regional Meetings - Don't forget to attend your Regional Meeting on Friday evening (you don't have to be registered for convention to attend Friday night's events). This is an election year so you will be electing a new person from your Region to be your Field Service Representative to represent you on the Kansas Board of Managers.

Election of New Kansas PTA Officers - As this is an election year, the slate of nominees presented by the Kansas PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee are listed in this issue. Any individual wishing to run from the floor must notify the President before March 29th, 2017 of your intent to do so.

Great Meals - We have a sponsor to lower the cost of every meal this year. That means that you can eat 3 convention meals for less than $20.00!! Please make sure to thank our sponsors. We will also have snacks available on Saturday on a "grab and go" basis.

Silent Auction - We have amazing gifts to be bid on coming in from multiple vendors such as Looney Bin Comedy Club (4 Adult guest passes on Thursday or Friday night), Union Station (2 adult, 2 children passes to Science City) Silver Dollar City (2 one day admission tickets to Silver Dollar City for the 2017 season), Family Tree Nursery ($25 gift card) and much, much more. You can help with this fundraising effort for our Future Teacher Scholarship Fund by coming to convention to bid on these great items or create a fun basket of items for others to bid on. This might include craft items, collectibles, gift items, toys, etc. Just let us know what you are bringing so we can have a bid sheet ready.

Honor a special Volunteer, Educator, or Student - You can donate $10.00 per honoree to the Marjorie Holwick Kansas PTA Wall of Fame which will also benefit our Future Teacher Scholarship Fund. You can do this before convention by requesting a copy of the Hall of Fame donation form and sending the $10.00 and your donation information to the Kansas PTA office before April 14th or it can be done on the Saturday of convention.

Arts and Awards and Membership Celebration - Friday night will feature our Arts and Awards Ceremony for our Citizenship and Reflections awardees and also our Celebration of our Membership Awards. A small reception will be held after the event. Support our students and our units who worked hard to grow their membership voices in the 2016-2017 school year.

We hope to see you there!
Diana Fabac, Convention Chair
Almost Spring -

Although it is hard to tell from the weather, Spring starts Monday, March 20th. And what does that mean for a PTA leader? Your calendar has an end in sight! Nominating teams are looking for those willing to step up as new leaders! You might be looking towards a second year! It is exciting and tiring at the same time.

Some things to remember as you traverse this transition.

◊ **Remind** your officers and chairs to start/complete/update a procedure book to give good guidance of best practices (and maybe some things that might need to be changed) to the next leader.
◊ **Plan** some sort of end of year celebration where you recognize the hard work that occurred during the year.
◊ **Check** your budget for unused dollars that can be moved to training or for an extra special dessert with a pot-luck dinner.
◊ **Look** at a plan of work for next year.
◊ **Work** with your principal to see where you can partner next year in Family Engagement activities.

If we can help in any way, please contact your Field Service Representative, your Council President, or Kansas PTA. We are here to assist you.
Did you realize that 2017 is the year that PTA, as an association, celebrates their 120th Birthday? It is hard to believe that the first meeting of parents and teachers was held in Washington, DC in February of 1987. Although hair styles, clothing trends, and modes of transportation have changed greatly since that time, issues for children can be surprisingly similar. Our Founding Mother’s first issues were the new concept of kindergarten and issues related to immigrant children who were coming over with their families to work in the minds.

Please remember our long history of being involved as volunteers that hope to create a better life for not just our child, but for all children.

Always Learning - Always growing

Have you ever felt that PTA is overwhelming? boring? repetitive? If you have felt any of those things, you just might need more training. Although, the best way to get training is face to face at a Kansas PTA Convention or at our Fall Leadership Training - another way to learn is through E-Learning and the PTA Back to School Kit.

For E-Learning, you only need to go to pta.org/elearning and the door is open for your learning opportunities. These courses range from Parliamentary Procedures, Local Unit President, and Creating and Delivering a Speech all of which are about a half hour in length to some E-Learning Micro-Courses that are only 10-15 minutes such as Budget Basics, Taking & Approving Minutes, and Quick Guide to (c)3 Basics (a little IRS jargon).

The PTA Back to School Kit which can be found on both the pta.org website and also on our own website, kansas-pta.org, has in-depth sections on Fundraising, Programs, Advocacy, Communications, Membership, and Finance. And you never have to leave home to find these awesome resources.

Want to encourage others to be more highly trained? Have a competition in your board to see who can complete the most courses over the course of a month. Make it a requirement for new officers. Feature these courses in your newsletters for your membership and offer a prize to those that complete one a month. (better yet....one a week!)

Always learning...means you are always growing.

Kansas PTA’s Youth Advisory Committee will be collecting used cellphones & tablets at the 2017 Kansas PTA Convention for Cell Phones For Soldiers. Cell Phones For Soldiers is a national non-profit serving troops and veterans with free communication services and emergency funding. Your donation provides calling cards for our troops and emergency funding for veterans in need. YAC’s goal is to collect 100 devices. For more information please contact Vikki at ksptamom@aol.com.
The 2017-2018 KSPTA Legislative Platform and Priorities have been recommended and approved by the Legislative Committee and will be considered and voted on by the convention body at the 2017 Convention.

2017-2018 Kansas PTA
Legislative Platform and Priorities

PTA Mission and Values. The mission of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Initiatives of the PTA are aligned with this mission and guided by five core values: collaboration, commitment, diversity, respect and accountability.

EDUCATION PLATFORM – Kansas PTA supports equitable access to quality education that provides all Kansas children the opportunity to make significant growth toward and to achieve the state education standards. The Kansas PTA recognizes no education system can be of the highest quality without the support, involvement and collaboration of parents, caregivers, legislators and the community.

Priority 1. Kansas PTA supports efforts to strengthen and improve the Kansas public school finance system, which includes legislation and policies that:
   a. uphold the state’s constitutional obligations to make suitable provision for the finance of the Kansas public schools, achieving both equitable and adequate funding, as informed by actual costs and other credible non-partisan sources.
   b. pursue solutions to fully fund state and federal educational mandates, including special education, without disproportionately shifting the burden to local communities.

Priority 2. Kansas PTA will support an equitable and balanced tax policy to maintain a reliable revenue stream for public education. A policy which draws upon a combination of income, property and sales taxes has been proven by history to be a secure and sustainable approach.

Priority 3. Kansas PTA supports policies that promote professional learning communities, teacher retention and recruitment including the restoration and allocation of state funding for teacher mentoring, staff development and other evidenced-based programs and policies that promote quality instruction.

Priority 4. Kansas PTA opposes the use of vouchers, scholarships, or tax credits toward the tuition of non-public schools, with the authority to discriminate in admissions, provide sectarian religious instruction and operate under different rules of transparency and accountability than public schools.

Priority 5. Kansas PTA supports current state charter legislation, passed in 1994, which allows for the creation of charter schools under the supervision of local boards of education. Any new charter related legislation must: prohibit for-profit, private or non-education entities from serving as authorizing agencies, prohibit large scale staffing by non-licensed teachers, and must hold all charter schools to the same rules of transparency, student admission and expulsion, financial and academic accountability as other public schools.

Priority 6. Kansas PTA advocates for evidence-based prevention and early intervention programs ranging from comprehensive early childhood programs, like PreK and Parents as Teachers, to funding for all-day kindergarten, to student engagement programs that reduce dropout rates and increase school completion.

Priority 7. Kansas PTA supports the State Board of Education’s routine review, revision and adoption of state education standards, including the College and Career Ready Standards (derived from the Common Core States Standards Initiative) and the Next Generation Science Standards. We encourage the State Board’s continued use of stakeholder engagement throughout the revision process, including meaningful input from parents and teachers. Kansas PTA opposes legislation that would ban or defund the education standards as approved by our freely elected, non-partisan members of the State Board of Education.

Priority 8. Kansas PTA recognizes the value of collecting student data to make informed decisions about educational policy and practices and thus will advocate that data collectors be transparent and engaged with families on the development, implementation and notification about policies and procedures related to the privacy and protection of student data; and, allow for parents and families to retain the right to review and request corrections of their child(ren)’s education records or profiles.

Priority 9. Kansas PTA will support efforts to preserve the Kansas Constitutional infrastructure for education, including nonpartisan elections of Kansas school board members and their appointment of our Education Commissioner, as well as, retaining the primary responsibility of defining the state education standards, as facilitated by the Kansas School Board, Kansas Department of Education, and with input from parents, education scholars, practitioners and other education stakeholders.

Priority 10. Kansas PTA will encourage the adoption of PTA family engagement standards into relevant legislation and policy.
The following bylaws amendment has been approved by the Kansas PTA Board of Managers and will be considered for adoption at convention.

By direction of the Bylaws Committee, I recommend in Article XII Section 6 to delete the words one dollar and twenty-five cents ($1.25) per annum and replacing them with the words one dollar and seventy-five cents ($1.75) per annum.

**Current Wording:**
#Section 6. The state portion of each member’s dues shall be one dollar and twenty-five cents ($1.25) per annum.

**Suggested Wording:**
#Section 6. The state portion of each member’s dues shall be one dollar and seventy-five cents ($1.75) per annum.

**Rationale:**
To continue to provide the excellent support, programs, trainings, and services to our constituent associations, councils, and members by state PTA, a dues increase is needed to fund the cost associated with doing PTA business.

*Also at convention, we will be considering a consent agenda to remove from consideration three amendments that were referred back to committee at the 2016 Convention.*

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**Kansas PTA Nominated Officers for the 2017-2019 Term**

**Nominated as President Elect - Lauri Denooy** is the current Kansas PTA Resolutions Chairman as well as taking on the 990 Revocation Special Committee working with Units to reinstate their 990 Not For-Profit status. Lauri has served as the Field Service Representative for Region 6 representing units in multiple school districts and Field Service Representative for Region 8 representing units in the Shawnee Mission School District. Lauri has served on the Kansas PTA Board of Managers as Bylaws Review Chairman, Arts and Education Chairman as well as other chairmanships throughout the past ten years and served on National PTA Arts and Education Committee and Organizational Viability Committee. Lauri has also served as Unit President and other various leadership positions at the local and council level. Lauri has two children; Mary and William who both are active in Band and Scouts and is recently engaged to Paul; who all are very supportive of the mission and purpose of PTA. Lauri is committed to seeing that ALL Children have a voice and that we as Parents, Teachers and Constituents have the necessary resources to achieve that goal.
Nominated for Vice President of Extension Services - Jackie Waters
I’m Jackie Waters from Haysville, KS. I have been married for 39 years and have a daughter 37 yrs. old and a son 33yrs. old. I have a grandson 4 ½ and another grandson due in May. I have been involved with PTA for 32 yrs. I have served every position on my local PTA through the years multiple times. I am currently serving as treasurer on my local PTA. I have also served on the state board through the years as safety chair, Region VP, Secretary, VP of Advocacy, President elect, and state President. I have worked for the school district for 30 yrs. I am currently the principal’s secretary. We need to get the word out that PTA is still here and advocating for children. More voices to get out the word on education.

Nominated for Vice President Member Services—Rachel Henderson joined the Kansas PTA Board of Managers in Fall 2014 as the Membership chair. During Rachel’s time on the Kansas PTA Board of Managers, she has served as the National PTA Emerging Minority Leaders Delegate, Kansas PTA Secretary (2015-17), and Diversity and Inclusion Chair (2016). Prior to joining the state board, Rachel was PTSA President at Frances Willard Elementary (2014-15) in KCK receiving the NPTA’s School of Excellence Designation while serving. Rachel also served as Membership Chair for the KCK Council of PTA (2014). She will serve as the KCK Council President during the 2017-2018 school year. When Rachel is not doing the work of PTA, she is working at Literacy KC, a Kansas City non-profit that works with adults to increase their reading and writing skills to obtain employment, get their GED, and/or be a lifelong learner. Rachel is a proud AmeriCorps VISTA alum and currently directs the VISTA project at her non-profit. Rachel has a strong passion for public service and the ability to make a lasting impact in the community through volunteerism. When she isn’t working, you can find her cheering on the Kansas City Royals, Chiefs, and Kansas Jayhawks or spending time with her friends and family. Rachel has two children, Kaiya and Halle.

Nominated for Secretary—Mia Wooldridge currently serves as the KS PTA Marketing & Publicity Chairman, where she manages communications, visuals, social media and the KS PTA website. She is also the 2017 Convention Workshop Chair. She has been involved in PTA since 2007, when her daughter was in Kindergarten. She has served as Secretary and a two-year term as President at Comanche Elementary in the Shawnee Mission School District, as well as Chair of numerous committees and activities, including Membership, Yearbook, Talent Show, Audit Committee and Communications. In 2009, Mia spearheaded a National PTA Healthy Lifestyles family engagement event at Comanche Elementary, one of just four schools in Kansas to be awarded the grant. Even prior to her involvement with Kansas PTA, Mia’s marketing and design talents were sought after for a variety of KS PTA projects, which made her a natural choice for the position of Marketing Chairman. Mia is married to her high school sweetheart, Tom, and they have a daughter, Ava, a freshman at SM West and a son, Ian, a 6th grader at Comanche Elem. Professionally, Mia works as a Marketing Communications Specialist for KGP Logistics in New Century, KS. Mia’s goals are to deliver timely and relevant information to KS PTA members through various mediums in a visually pleasing way, to engage and stimulate members to action.

Nominated for Treasurer - Vikki Mullins has been a member of PTA for 13 years. She has served on executive boards in the Turner School District at the elementary, middle, high school, and council levels, in addition to serving a two year term as Arts & Awards Chair for Kansas PTA and as the adult mentor for Kansas PTA’s Youth Advisory Committee. After many years as a preparer with the biggest tax preparation company in the US, she now spends her professional life as a financial manager at a company in Western Wyandotte County that provides home delivered meals to clients with traumatic brain injuries and other disabilities. Vikki is the proud parent to TJ, a senior at Turner High School who is also deeply involved with several aspects of PTA and other community service efforts. Vikki also serves on the Turner Days Committee and is a member of the Turner Foundation, but her passion is her 13 year involvement with Bikers Against Child Abuse where she serves as a patched member & child primary contact with the Kaw River, Kansas Chapter.

Any Kansas PTA member choosing to run from the floor should notify the Kansas PTA President and the Chair of the KSPTA NLDC committee prior to March 29th, 2017.
Kansas PTA Board Roster

Kansas PTA Bulletin
This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org

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Vice President Extension Services  Josefina Gutierrez  913-787-6367  josiechad@yahoo.com
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Region 4 & 7  Diana Fabac  913-475-7789  fabacd@turnerusd202.org

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