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As I write this we have just concluded the 95th Annual PTA State Convention. It was exciting to have a great group of First Timer’s attend. Like I shared in the President’s workshop, I think I learn as much from the other delegates as I do from the workshop presenters. Training is the key to improving your unit. For those of you that attended the convention, I’m glad you were able to be with us.

The summer packet will be on its way to you mid May either via a Region training or your mail box – make sure you have submitted the New Officer Information form to the State PTA office.

I’m going to keep my article short this month – I want to save room to share photos from convention. Have a great summer – enjoy your children – they grow up all too fast!

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

Fundraising, the (Online) Community Way

Perhaps the most important thing to realize about fundraising is that you can’t think about it as collecting money. Money is essential if you want to provide your students with new computers, or finance their field trip to the Capitol—but money is simply the end result of fundraising, and not necessarily the focus of the process. If it were as simple as asking everyone “Can I please have $10 for PTA?” we wouldn’t hold school fairs, host large scale dinners, or organize walks. We do these things not only to raise funds, but to reinforce the idea of community—that people, and not just parents, have a role in supporting the education of our youth.

This idea of community is no less important when fundraising online. Sites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Fotki let you share pictures and videos with people as if you were sharing photo albums and home movies with friends—they help you tell a story, and keep you connected on a personal level. The individual who is introduced to your PTA through online media might then start reading your blog. Next, they could be commenting on your posts and participating in your polls and petitions. Once that person feels like they are a part of your community, when you ask them to support you with a donation, they’re going to be much more likely to say yes. The advantage of websites and other social media is that when you share your story with the members of your online community, they can they easily share it with others, and that’s how your entire community grows.

The goal never was, and never will be, the money itself. We plan dances, sell cookbooks, and play bingo because we want to help create the greatest school community we can. As long as you never lose sight of that, your fundraising efforts are guaranteed to be a success.

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President

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, 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 Official PTA Kit—Register for Yours!
The PTA Back-to-School Kit is now The Official PTA Kit—PTA’s Big Box of Possibilities.

Along with the change in name, there is a change in the kit’s delivery. This year, all local, council and region PTAs must register to receive their kit. The registration form allows your incoming PTA president or other authorized leader to provide your unit’s preferred shipping address and date.

This new process will help ensure that the kit gets into the right hands at the right time. And the kit is still free!

Look for a postcard and e-mail with your unit’s registration link starting at the end of April. Kits will ship weekly June 19 through the end of October (kits shipped after October 1 will incur a handling cost).

To order the kit without a personalized URL (PURL), go to the online order form (http://www.pta.org/ptakit_register), or call the PTA Information Center at (800) 307-4782 during regular business hours. You will need your unit ID number and confirm that you are authorized to order the kit for your unit.

For more details about the delivery and contents of The Official PTA Kit, go to PTA.org/OfficialKit.

The Official PTA Kit is available exclusively to PTAs in good standing.
Parents, educators and other PTA members interested in the welfare of children came together from across the state to attend the 95th Annual Kansas PTA Convention in Lawrence, April 24th – April 26th. Delegates attended workshops, general meetings, visited with exhibitors, relaxed in the hospitality suite, participated in the OMDR Plus Lab, the Silent Auction, purchased PTA items in the PTA Store and made new friends.

Convention attendees had a selection of 24 workshops ranging from topics such as “Presidents’ Training” to “Underage Drinking” and “MORE Male Involvement” to choose from. All delegates learned about issues relevant to PTA and to our children that can be taken back to their local units and shared.

New to the convention this year was “Speed Vending”, “Just 4 Me” pre convention workshops and an “OMDR Plus Lab” for attendees to participate in. Other activities during the convention included the Friday Night Convention Kick Off Party with DJ Kirby from Mix 93.3 FM, Doughnuts with Dad, Sunday morning Sunrise Service, the Healthy Walk for Kids, PTA Store, Silent Auction, Wall of Fame and the YAC Book Recycling project.

Bryan Davis, Director of All Pro Dad, gave a powerful presentation on Friday evening that focused on the importance of Male Involvement in all children’s lives.

Other guest speakers included: Cindy Couchman, 2009 Kansas Teacher of the Year; Laura Dobbs, National PTA Representative; Dennis Johnson, Regional Director, US Census Bureau; Rob Nuccio, President and CEO of RV Nuccio & Associates, Inc. and Dr. Alexa Posny, Kansas Commissioner of Education. All of the speakers were informative and inspiring!

The convention body voted to approve two amendments to the Kansas PTA bylaws: the month the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee are elected in and to require units to submit a copy of their completed federal form 990 for the last fiscal year, as required by the IRS, to Kansas PTA by January 15th each year. A Resolution on Youth Mentoring was also approved. New officers were elected for the 2009-2011 term to take office July 1st. Those elected were: Cynthia Jarrold, President-Elect; Nancy Niles Lusk, Vice President of Advocacy; Denise Sultz, Vice President of Extension Services; Shelly Pennington, Vice President of Member Services; Jackie Waters, Secretary and Marie Thomas, Treasurer. Along with these officers the following Region Vice Presidents were elected at their respective region meetings: Congratulations to: Region 1 Vice President, Eve May; Region 3 Vice President, Nicci Waters; Region 4 Vice President, Janet Wood; Region 6 Vice President, Vicky Needham; Region 7 Vice President, Julie Howard; and Region 8 Vice President, Lauren Meyer.

As you know putting
together this convention is not a one-person job. I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to the members of the 2009 Convention Management Team: Call to Convention and Convention Program, Shelly Pennington; Convention Promotion, Debbie Lawson; Credentials/Registration, Shelly Pennington & Sharon Julius; Election Committee Chair, Vicki Needham; Exhibitors & Advertising, Beth Brown; Finances, Sharon Rakos; General Meeting Coordinator, Lauri DeNooy; Healthy Walk, Denise Sultz; Local Committee Co-Chairs, Chris Akin and Marie Thomas; OMDR Plus Lab, Tammy Bartels & Marie Thomas; PTA Store, Sheila Bunnell; Resource Development, Jackie Waters; Signs, Shelly Pennington; Silent Auction, Monica Crowe; and Lauri DeNooy; Sunrise Service, Cynthia Jarrold; Technical Assistant & Doughnuts with Dad, Robert DeNooy; Wall of Fame, Scholarship Trustees; Workshops, Jackie Waters; and YAC, Kayla Crowe. They contributed their skills, talents and time to make the convention a success.

Thank you to the chairmen that presented awards: Leadership – Shelly Pennington, Membership – Beth Brown, New Unit – Diana Fabac, Parent Involvement – Shirlyn Richardson, Virginia Peak, Student & Educator Awards – Beth Brown.

Also instrumental in the success of this convention were the Past State Presidents; Peggy Davis, Ernie Goerend, Merry Dee Hornbuckle, Laura Kaiser and Gail Vertz for the Inspirations, the wisdom they shared and their assistance at the registration desk. To Sheryl Peak for overseeing the registration desk and the other board members that assisted her as well. And to the past state convention chairs; Tammy Bartels, Debbie Lawson and Jan Long, your guidance and assistance was invaluable!

And last but certainly not least, a HUGE thank you to the entire Kansas PTA Board of Managers and other volunteers who presented workshops, presided at workshops and performed other convention duties and to those who donated Silent Auction items and their time to the convention. You are all so “Awesome”!!!

The 95th Annual State PTA Convention was certainly a success thanks to everyone. I hope you will want to come back and attend the 96th Annual State PTA Convention!

Patty Jurich
Kansas PTA Secretary & 2009 Convention Chairman
2009 Kansas PTA Outstanding Educator of the Year

Believe in our students, Believe in ourselves, Believe in KCKPS, these are the words of the 2009 Kansas PTA Outstanding Educator of the Year, Dr. Jill Shackelford. After receiving her bachelors degree in 1966, masters in 1983 and then her doctorate in 1992, she took the position of Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Standards in 1997 with the KCK Public Schools. After 7 years in this position she was selected as the first woman Superintendent in the 148 year history of the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. In the words of the Unified government’s Mayor and CEO Joe Reardon, “Dr. Shackelford performs her duties with excellence. Her tenure has seen many changes in which she has performed crucial roles. It was a massive undertaking that has led to our public schools to be recognized as one of the most progressive in the country. Dr. Shackelford’s efforts are invaluable.” Mr. Doug Bolden, the principal at FL Schlagle High School summed things up quite well, “Dr. Shackelford’s loyalty and commitment to the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools, District 500 and the community is priceless. She cares, but more than that she believes in our youth of today, who will be tomorrow’s leaders. Obviously I cannot say enough good things about Dr. Shackelford, other than I know she will continue to make a positive impact in this district and help create an environment where people learn and feel good about doing so. Simply put, Dr. Shackelford is a winner!!”

2009 Kansas PTA Outstanding Student of the Year

Alex Bartels is a leader in her school both academically and athletically. She participates in marching and concert band as the only piccolo player, and occasionally plays the flute to participate in small ensembles for competitions. She competes on the debate and forensics teams and qualified this year for State Forensics in Extemporaneous Speaking. Alex is only one of four players who made the Varsity Girls Soccer team last year as a freshman and will be heading up the team’s defense this year as the goalie. Alex will start her third year as a member of the Varsity Cheerleading Squad in 2009-2010. Alex is also a Duke TIP Scholar and a Jack Kent Cooke Youth Scholar. Both programs provide for extra enrichment for gifted students. Community service is very important to Alex and through JKC she was able to spend a week in Chicago working with homeless women and children. She also worked alone and with various groups to raise funds for breast cancer awareness, collecting toys for youth that were in the hospital over the holidays, collecting books for classrooms after they were damaged by a tornado. She also organized a fashion show to collect clothes and funds for a battered women’s shelter. Alex is a sophomore at Tonganoxie High School in Tonganoxie, KS and is an active member of the Tonganoxie Middle and High School PTSA. She served as the unit’s High School Vice President during their inaugural year and continues to be involved in many activities; including organizing the book fair student crew, volunteering at the school carnival, and advising on activities for students. She was also one of the founding members of the Kansas PTA Youth Advisory Committee.
This award annually recognizes an individual who has given distinguished service to the children and youth in Kansas. It is named for Virginia Peak who faithfully served Kansas PTA on the local, council, and state levels for over twenty-five years. She dedicated her time and talents to advocate on behalf of all children. Virginia was a good communicator, excellent problem solver, talented teacher, great motivator, and a compassionate friend.

With the presentation of this award, Kansas PTA honors a leader who has gone above and beyond in dedication to the children and youth of Kansas and whose sustained commitment to excellence over many years has made a positive difference in the lives of children.

Kansas PTA is pleased to announce that Mrs. Gloria Willis is the 2009 recipient.

Virginia Peak Award recipients:

1999 ~ Marjorie Holwick
2000 ~ Debbie Taylor
2001 ~ Judi Tucci
2002 ~ Jan Long
2003 ~ Janet Waugh
2004 ~ Teri Kelly
2005 ~ Gail Vertz
2006 ~ Nancy Ryan
2007 ~ Vicki Needham
2008 ~ Tammy Bartels

Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence

Excellent schools don’t just happen...they’re created.

Excellent schools are created through the dedication of superintendents, principals, teachers, parents, and community members who are passionate about student success. Since 2003, the Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification has recognized schools whose parent involvement programs are based on the National Standards for Parent/Family Involvement Programs. The standards, endorsed by nearly 100 health and education organizations, were created around the six types of parent involvement identified by Joyce L Epstein, Ph.D. PTA’s Schools of Excellence Certification has established the gold standard for parent involvement practices by providing a framework for schools to evaluate themselves. This certification has helped schools in the nation assess their parent involvement practices, make improvements where needed, and earn one of two distinctions. The Certification of Excellence is for schools with outstanding parent involvement practices in place. The Recognition of Commitment is for schools committed to pursuing excellence in parent involvement. Now, PTA has created a new awards program to better applaud PTAs for achieving the updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships. The Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards, new for the 2008-2009 school year, replace the Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification Program. While PTA is no longer accepting applications for the Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification, schools currently certified as Schools of Excellence will retain that honor through their original three-year term. In addition, all local, council, and region PTAs in good standing are eligible to apply for the annual Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards. Prior to the Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification Program ending, December 31, 2008, we had one more Kansas school receive recognition.

Congratulations to John Diemer Elementary PTA!!
Kansas PTA thanks the following 2009 Convention sponsors and exhibitors. It is through the generosity of our sponsors and the participation of our exhibitors, advertisers, and tote bag premiums that Kansas PTA is able to keep our convention affordable for all Kansas PTA members.

**Sponsors:**

**KPIRC – Kansas Parent Information Resource Center**

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- Fun Services
- Gametime/Cunningham Associates
- Generations Go Green
- Happy Faces Entertainment
- House of Hope Wichita
- Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co
- JT Enterprises, Inc
- Kansas City Royals Baseball
- Kansas Learning Center for Health
- Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office
- KPIRC – Kansas Parent Information Resource Center
- KVC Behavioral Healthcare
- Lifetouch
- QSP, Inc
- The Fundraiser Shop
- Time Warner Cable
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- US Census Bureau

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- KPIRC – Kansas Parent Information Resource Center
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- Carmi Scarves
- Lifetouch
- The Fundraiser Shop
- KVC Behavioral Healthcare
- House of Hope Wichita
- Kansas Learning Center for Health
- Generations Go Green
- SMAC – Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA

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**Tote Bag Insert Premium:**

- Kansas Family Partnership
- Roses are Red
Kansas PTA
Keys to Leadership

Passport

The Kansas PTA “Keys to Leadership” Passport program is designed to recognize members for their commitment to children. In doing so, Kansas PTA offers the opportunity to document this continued achievement in your personal passport. Your support through participation is instrumental in the PTA’s overall success.

Bronze Level

Kayla Crowe
Robert DeNooy

Silver Level

Angie Armintrout
Lauri DeNoooy
Debbie Lawson
Shelly Pennington

Gold Level

Patty Jurich

General Membership Awards

Early Bird Award – Initial membership dues submitted by October 1st.
Meadowlark Award – Early Birds who submit an additional 25 members by January 15th.
Golden Apple Award – Units with 100% membership of full-time certified staff.
One Voice for Every Child Award – Membership total is equal to or greater than the number of students enrolled in the school.
Challenge Award – Units with 5% membership increase over the previous year’s membership total.
Kansas Honor Roll – Units with membership equal to or greater than 60% of their enrollment.
Community Outreach Award – Units with at least 10 non-traditional members.
Making a Difference Award – Units with at least 15% member increase over the previous year’s membership total.

Special Membership Awards
(determined by the state membership committee)

Council Achievement Award - Councils that have each of their units in Good Standing (Bylaws current, officer names submitted, and dues submitted) and receiving one (1) or more general membership award.
Tomorrow’s Leaders Today Award - Awarded to the one PTSA unit with the highest percentage of student memberships. The unit must have a minimum of twenty (20) student members.
Male Involvement Award – Awarded to the one (1) PTA/PTSA unit with the highest percentage of male memberships. The unit must have a minimum of twenty (20) male members.
President’s Challenge Award – Units with at least 25% member increase over the previous year’s membership total.
Gold Award – Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest increase in membership numbers.
Silver Award – Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest percentage increase in membership.

State Board Awards
(determined by the state membership committee)

Sunflower Award – Awarded to the Region VP with the greatest percentage increase in membership.
Heartland Award – Awarded to the Region VP that adds the most units.
2008-2009
Special Membership Awards
(determined by the state membership committee)

Council Achievement Award – Shawnee Mission Area PTA Council
(Awarded to the council with each of their units in good standing (bylaws current, officer names submitted, dues submitted) and receiving one (1) or more general membership awards.)

Tomorrow’s Leaders Today Award – Turner Middle PTSA
(Awarded to the one (1) PTSA unit with the highest percentage of student memberships. The unit must have a minimum of 20 student members.)

Male Involvement Award – Santa Fe Trail Elementary PTA
(Awarded to the one (1) PTA/PTSA unit with the highest percentage of male memberships. The unit must have a minimum of twenty (20) male members.)

President’s Challenge Award – Bryant Elementary PTA, Cleaveland Elementary PTA, OK Elementary PTA, Sunset Elementary PTA, Galena PTA, Cordley Elementary PTA, Garfield Elementary PTA, Golden Oaks PTA, Mill Creek Middle PTA, Riverview Elementary PTA, Schweger Elementary PTA, Arrowhead Middle PTSA, Bethel Elementary PTA, McKinley Elementary PTA, Stony Point South Elementary PTA, Tonganoxie Middle & High PTSA, Turner Early Learning Center PTA, Turner Elementary PTA, Antioch Middle PTA, Apache Elementary PTA, Comanche Elementary PTA, Oak Park Carpenter Elementary PTA, Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers PTA, (Awarded to units with a 25% increase over last year’s membership total.)

Gold Award – Cordley Elementary PTA
(Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest increase in membership numbers.)

Silver Award – Bethel Elementary PTA
(Awarded to the one (1) unit with the greatest percentage increase in membership.)

2008-2009
State Board Awards
(determined by the state membership committee)

Sunflower Award – Region 7, VP Monica Crowe
(Awarded to the region with the greatest percentage increase in membership)

Heartland Award – Region 6, VP Chris Akin and Region 7, VP Monica Crowe
(Awarded to the region that adds the most units)

The Region 8 unit membership awards were inadvertently copied incorrectly in the convention program. They are included on Page 11 and 12 in their entirety. We apologize for this error.
2008-2009
General Membership Awards

REGION 8

Antioch Middle PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, Challenge, Making a Difference
Apache Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Challenge,
   Making a Difference, Community Outreach
Belinder Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, Challenge, Kansas Honor Roll
Blue-Jacket Flint Elementary PTA - Early Bird
Briarwood Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Kansas Honor Roll
Broken Arrow Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark
Brookridge Elementary PTA - Early Bird
Brookwood Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple,
   One Voice for Every Child, Kansas Honor Roll
Center For International Studies PTSA – Early Bird, Kansas Honor Roll
Christa McAuliffe Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, One Voice for Every Child,
   Kansas Honor Roll, Community Outreach
Comanche Elementary PTA – Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge, Making a Difference,
   Community Outreach
Corinth Elementary PTA – Early Bird, Golden Apple, One Voice for Every Child,
   Challenge, Kansas Honor Roll
Crestview Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Challenge
Don Bonjour Elementary PTA – Early Bird, Community Outreach
Dorothy Moody Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark
East Antioch Elementary PTA – Early Bird
Highlands Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, One Voice for Every Child,
   Kansas Honor Roll
Hocker Grove Elementary PTA – Kansas Honor Roll
Indian Hills Middle PTA - Early Bird, Kansas Honor Roll
Indian Woods Middle PTA - Early Bird
John Diemer Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Kansas Honor Roll
Merriam Park Elementary PTA - Early Bird
Mill Creek Elementary - Early Bird, Kansas Honor Roll
Mission Valley Middle PTA - Early Bird
Neiman Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, Challenge
Oak Park Carpenter Elementary PTA – One Voice for Every Child, Challenge,
   Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll
Overland Park Elementary PTA - Early Bird
Pawnee Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge, Making a Difference,
   Community Outreach
Prairie Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, One Voice for Every Child,
   Kansas Honor Roll
Ray Marsh Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple,
   Kansas Honor Roll, Community Outreach
Rhein Benninghoven Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, Kansas Honor Roll,
   Community Outreach
Rising Star Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, Community Outreach
Roesland Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Challenge, Making a Difference,
   Community Outreach
Rosehill Elementary PTA - Early Bird
Rushton Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Kansas Honor Roll,
   Community Outreach
Santa Fe Trail Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple
Shawano Elementary PTA - Early Bird
Continued from page 11...
Shawnee Mission East PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark
Shawnee Mission North PTA - Early Bird, Challenge
Shawnee Mission Northwest PTSA - Early Bird, Meadowlark
Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers PTA - Early Bird, Challenge, Making a Difference
Shawnee Mission South PTA - Early Bird
Shawnee Mission West PTSA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Kansas Honor Roll, Community Outreach
Sunflower Elementary PTA - Early Bird
Tomahawk Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge, Community Outreach
Trailridge Middle PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, Kansas Honor Roll
Trailwood Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Golden Apple, One Voice for Every Child, Kansas Honor Roll
Westridge Middle PTA - Early Bird, Kansas Honor Roll, Community Outreach
Westwood View Elementary PTA - Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Kansas Honor Roll

2009 – 2010 Membership Theme

“Around the World with PTA”
Inviting and Uniting our diverse parents, neighbors, and community to JOIN PTA!

Congratulations Mihan Lester

Hot off the press, Mihan Lester, Senior at Shawnee Mission North, was selected as a National PTA *Reflections Award of Excellence winner in the Senior Division of the Visual Arts Category. Mihan will receive a $200 cash award and a silver-plated Reflections medallion (additional sponsor gifts may be given).

Kansas PTA congratulates Mihan on her accomplishment!!

*The Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts.
PTA Takes Action

Changes. Just as seasons change, changes come about in our government. Changes are good. They bring about fresh new ideas.

The National PTA Legislative Conference was held in Washington D.C. on March 10, 11, & 12. Surprise! There are changes in PTA Legislation. Changes for the better. PTA takes action. PTA is becoming an advocate to be reckoned with on Capitol Hill. Our national office is busy working closely with the Secretary of Education, Senators, Congressmen, and other cabinet members. They are building a good working relationship with our legislators. PTA is providing information and data to help get many of the bills passed.

The keynote speaker for the conference was Marian Wright Edelman. She is the Founder and President of the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF). She is an Advocate for disadvantaged Americans. She was the first woman admitted to the Mississippi bar in the 1960’s.

The training was very helpful and informative. Some of the changes are:
I. Public Policy will now be updated annually.
II. Prioritized issues
   a. Parent engagement (NCLB-ESEA)
   b. Equity and opportunity for all children (NCLB, JJDP, and Budget & Appropriations)
   c. Health and wellness (Child Nutrition Act)
III. Shift from local level advocacy to federal level advocacy

The prioritized issues are current issues that have bills that are coming before the House and Senate this year. We need to make an impact on those issues.

One day was spent participating in workshops. Lots of great information came out of them. Workshops attended were:
- Motivating for Action—Ideas to get our issues across to our legislators, so that they’ll remember exactly how the PTA stands on issues. Learned about some new programs to get advocates to take action. How a legislative committee works.
- Hill Issues & Training—It helped to prepare us for our hill visits on specific issues in the public policy. Discussed tips on conducting talking points. This was done in a fun way. We played “Who wants to be a Millionaire” to learn.
- Equity & the Law—It stressed that we must ensure that all children have the necessary opportunities to make each child’s potential a reality.

The third day was spent on Capitol Hill talking with our Senators and House of Representatives. The meetings were very productive. All of our questions were answered and they listened to what we had to say. We just now have to keep following up with them.

The conference was three days of packed full of information and sharing with other states.

Just as there are changes going on in legislation, there are changes with the Kansas PTA. The new Kansas PTA officers were elected at the State Convention. This is my last article as your 2007-2009 VP of Advocacy. But that doesn’t mean I won’t be working on advocacy issues because I am pumped and ready to continue working as an advocate for children.

Jackie Waters,
KS PTA VP of Advocacy
UNIT LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMEN CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This is a trying economic time for our state and nation. In the face of budget cut-backs, challenges are increasing for our Kansas public schools to maintain the quality of our children’s educations. Expectations in student achievements continue to rise higher each year, despite on-going cuts in promised funds to accomplish those goals.

The current circumstances make the role of PTAs more important than ever. No other organization is as active in encouraging parent involvement, supporting teachers, and advocating for the needs of children.

If your PTA unit has not had a person serving in the position of Legislative Chairman previously, this is the time to look to recruiting one for the coming school year. Please do not neglect to fill this important position.

The Legislative Chairman is responsible for inspiring your PTA members to fulfill the PTA mission statement, which is to be “a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.” The ways in which a Legislative Chairman can support your unit include the following:

- Provide accurate and factual information to your local unit on legislative issues so they may have an understanding of the issues at stake
- Provide information to your unit members on how to be an effective advocate, such as the best ways to use letter writing, emails, phone calls, etc. to lobby
- Present the positions of the PTA on legislative issues to fellow members and elected local, state and national representatives.

Encourage members to participate in legislative efforts and be a voice for children.

If the above list sounds a bit daunting, take comfort in knowing that your legislative chairman will not have to manage fulfilling all these duties by their lonesome. Kansas PTA and National PTA are here to provide support in all those areas. We understand how busy every parent is, and we are striving to do what we can to ease the way. In addition to providing relevant advocacy training opportunities, we are gearing up to improve the tracking of state issues and legislation and the methods of sharing such information with you.

When you mobilize your members to impact the issues they care about, the rewards will more than compensate the extra effort. What could be more important than watching out for the best interests of our kids? And where could anyone ever find a better advocacy team to be a part of than the PTA? I know I am grateful and proud of all the things our members across the state do on behalf of children.

Nancy Niles Lusk
Kansas PTA State Legislative Chairman

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.

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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.
Kansas PTA Board Roster

State Officers

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VP Advocacy ....................................................... Jackie Waters ........................................... 1417 Loring, Haysville, KS  67060 .......... 316-522-0706
VP Extension Services ........................................... Tammy Bartel .......................................... 504 S. Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS  66086 .......... 913-417-7031
VP Member Services ............................................ Beth Brown .............................................. P.O. Box 12274, Kansas City, KS  66112 .... 913-271-5955
Secretary .............................................................. Patty Jurisch .................................................. 6125 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 .................................................. 2601 27th Street, Great Bend, KS  67530 .......... 620-792-6427
Region 3 Vice President .......................................... Nicci Waters .............................................. 220 Alice, Haysville, KS  67060 .......... 316-544-8011
Region 4 Vice President .......................................... Janet Wood .............................................. 148 Florida Ave., Salina, KS  67401 .......... 785-522-0706
Region 5 Vice President ............................................ Vacant .................................................... ................................................................. Region 6 Vice President .......................................... Chris Akin .................................................. 4820 Millridge, Shawnee, KS  66226 .......... 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

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, Haysville, KS  67060 .......... 316-522-0706
Health & Wellness ............................................... Denise Sultz ............................................. 9311 W. 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66204 .......... 913-381-7824
Inclusiveness / Diversity Leadership ......................... Kayla Crowe ........................................... 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS  66104 .......... 913-299-3383
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 .............................................. 2283 W. 44th Street, Shawnee, KS  66226 .......... 913-422-7841
Parent Involvement .............................................. Shirlly 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, Haysville, KS  67060 .......... 316-522-0706
State Legislative .................................................. DeAnn Lawson ........................................... 15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS  66219 .......... 913-541-0806
State Legislative .................................................. Nancy Niles Lusk ........................................... 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  66221 .... 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 .......................... Vicki Needham ........................................... 20918 W. 71st Street, Shawnee, KS  66218 .......... 913-411-0110
*Parliamentarian ............................................... Ernie Goerend ........................................... 757 South Delaware Ave., Salina, KS  67401 .......... 785-825-6503
*Reflections ........................................................ Vacant .................................................... ................................................................. DeSoto ............................................................. John Gaignon ........................................... 5607 Brownridge, Shawnee, KS  66218 .......... 913-422-1826
*Kansas City ...................................................... Monica Crowe ........................................... 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS  66104 .......... 913-299-3383
*Salina ............................................................ Belinda Rock ............................................. 927 Vassar Drive, Salina, KS  67401 .......... 785-827-3565
*Shawnee Mission .............................................. Lauren Meyer ............................................. 14139 W. 84th Terrace, Shawnee Missions, 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.

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MAY

SUN  MON  TUE  WED  THR  FRI  SAT
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JUNE

SUN  MON  TUE  WED  THR  FRI  SAT
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Asain / Pacific Heritage Month
National Bike Month
National Physical Fitness & Sports Month
2  National Volunteer Week Ends
3  PTA Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
5  National Teacher Day
10  Mother’s Day
25  National Missing Children’s Day
2  2009 Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Applications due
14  Flag Day
21  Father’s Day
26-29  National PTA Convention

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
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Fax:  785-234-4170
Email:  kansaspta@gmail.com
Website:  www.kansas-pta.org

May—June 2009

Return Service Requested

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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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

National PTA Convention
June 26 - 29, 2009
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

IMPORTANT DATES

Kansas PTA Legislative Training Day
Fall 2009