The Kansas PTA Executive Committee each decorated an apron to auction off at convention. The proceeds of the auction went to the Kansas PTA Endowment Fund which will sustain PTA programs for years to come. Each member choose a theme and decorated their apron according to the theme. Some provided gift baskets to go along with their aprons. It was fun for all with the proceeds benefitting the mission and purpose of PTA. Thanks to all who participated!
“Embrace All Children” was the 2011 convention theme and fits perfectly with Kansas PTA initiatives. Our efforts to become a more diverse PTA working for all children and families, including community partners, aunts, uncles, grandparents, administrators, teachers, and guardians will make PTA a voice to be heard in Kansas and our nation. The training resources provided at state convention are invaluable in our efforts. State convention should be attended by all PTA members to attend workshops, network, be inspired by keynote speakers and learn how to be an effective advocate for children. Plan to join us next year in Wichita for the 98th annual Kansas PTA Convention. You will join other voices across the state as we work on issues concerning the education, health and welfare of children.

This is a time of transition for all PTA units, councils and state PTA. Please make sure all procedure books are passed to new officers and all information shared with incoming chairman. Get the new members off to a great start! Jackie Waters will assume her duties as Kansas PTA President on July 1st. The 2011 convention delegates elected an outstanding board of volunteers to serve as the 2011-2013 officers and guide PTA efforts.

Thank you to all the outgoing local PTA presidents, council presidents and local board members for your outstanding leadership and dedication. As you develop plans for the 2011-2012 school year, actively work to promote and develop future PTA leaders. Plan and budget for training (not just for current leaders, but also for those who show an interest). Training is a vital aspect of learning to advocate for your children and to keep your PTA unit strong and healthy.

I would like to thank the 2009-2011 Kansas PTA Board of Managers. It has been my honor to serve with you. You have shown time and again your dedication, strength and willingness for hard work on behalf of children. It was my pleasure to work with each and every one of you. You made an outstanding TEAM!

To the Kansas PTA membership - thank you for the opportunity to serve as your leader for the 2009-2011 term. I have been honored to serve as your president and I thank you for the opportunity. I enjoyed getting to know you and attending your meetings and functions. Have a safe and fun summer with your families. I wish you every success for the 2011-2012 school year!

Debbie Lawson
Kansas PTA President
2009-2011

115th Annual National PTA® Convention and Exhibition
Thursday, June 9–Sunday, June 12, 2011
Disney Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center
Orlando, Florida

Join parents, teachers, students, and leaders who come to national convention each year to enhance their skills, connections, and success!

Education – choose from 50+ workshops
Exhibits – visit more than 200 exhibits
Issues – raise your voice on business and emerging issues
Resources – gather hundreds of ideas, handouts, giveaways
Connections – interact with thousands of other PTA and parent engagement leaders from around the country
Orlando – bring the entire family and see what Walt Disney World has to offer!
PTA Members, Parents, and Educators met in Lawrence, KS for the annual Kansas PTA Convention. Delegates attended general meetings, workshops, visited with exhibitors, participated in the Silent Auction & Apron Auction, enjoyed food and relaxation in the Hospitality Suite and purchased items in the PTA Store. All delegates learned about issues relevant to PTA and to our children, which can be taken back to their local units and shared.

Victor Pacini was our Friday evening kickoff guest speaker! He was inspirational and the delegates loved him! Other guest speakers included, Ms. Nicolette Geisler with Kansas Mentors, Ms. Jeanette Nobo, with Kansas Department of Education, Mrs. Laura Bay, our National PTA Representative, & Mr. Curtis Chandler, our Kansas Teacher of the Year, who sent a Video Presentation. All of the speakers were informative and inspiring.

I have enjoyed being your Kansas PTA Convention Chair for the 2011 Kansas PTA Convention. I appreciate all the hard work and support that goes into preparing for a big event like this. I would like to thank the 2011 Convention Committee for all of their hard work in putting on a great Convention for our delegates and guests. The Committee included: Workshops/Resolutions, Tammy Bartels; Exhibitors/Sponsors/Ads/Signs, Patty Jurich; Local Committee/Hospitality, Diana Fabac; Silent Auction, Tammy Wake; PTA Store, Sheila Bun nell; Technology, Robert DeNooy; General Meeting Coordinator, Rae Ann Kobylynski; Credentials, Lauren Meyer; Registration/Membership Awards, Dawn Lalumondier; Marketing/PR, Vicky Whisenant; ByLaws/ Virginia Peak Award, Jackie Waters; Wall of Fame, Scholarship Trustees; Leadership Awards, Toni Miller; Arts & Education Awards, Lauri DeNooy & Sharon Julius, Convention Program.

I would also like to thank our Past State Presidents who gave inspirations at our General Meetings: Peggy Davis, Laura Kaiser, Nancy Ryan, & Ernie Goerend. We enjoy their leadership and they shared their wisdom with us!

Thanks to Debbie Lawson for her support and help with this convention. Thanks to Sharon Julius with all her help with the convention binder. Many thanks to the entire Kansas PTA Board of Managers for all the countless hours of getting ready for convention, presenting workshops, presiding at workshops, donating to the Silent Auction and performing so many other convention duties. The convention was a success due to your hard work and dedication!

As our Convention Theme states, “Embrace All Children”, it is my hope that you will hold a special place in your hearts for ALL children. I hope that you will “Embrace” and love them!

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA Treasurer & 2011 Convention Chairman

Just Between Friends is the official PTA communications and membership management system. The online system was developed to help PTAs efficiently communicate with their entire school community; earn revenue for their unit; and manage membership. The system also helps parents to manage their hectic lives.

Enter your Unit Today
If you’re not currently using Just Between Friends, it’s easy to get started. Simply visit www.JustBetweenFriends.com/PTAquickstart. If you have any questions, click on Contact Us and a knowledgeable, friendly Just Between Friends Customer Support Representative will help.

Enter Members
It’s easy to enter members into Just Between Friends. There are three methods: member self-entry, individual manual entry, and spreadsheet upload. To discover all three methods, log into the system www.JustBetweenFriends.com (after you’ve entered your unit), click on the “Admin” button in the top bar. You’ll see your “Administrator Dashboard.” Click on “View or Modify your Groups.” Then, you’re ready to enter members using any of the three methods.

Communicate
Once your members are entered, it’s time to begin communicating with them. There are three different types of emails you can send: event, deadline, and announcement. It’s easy to send an email – just log into the system and go to your “Administrator Dashboard.” Click on “Spread the Word” and follow the prompts. Begin communicating right away to become eligible to earn revenue for your unit. Contact the JBF/PTA Liaison for details about revenue-share (412-561-0500 x 1203).

Transitioning Officers
If your unit is already using Just Between Friends, all outgoing and returning system administrators must transition your officers to the new school year. It’s important to set up your new officers before your permissions expire in the system. It’s quick and easy. Visit www.LearnJBF.com where you’ll find instructions for transitioning officers.

Learn How to Use the System
Learn how to use all aspects of the system by visiting www.LearnJBF.com. Here you’ll find lots of “How-to” information to help you learn how to accomplish any task in the system.

Best,
Fran Lytle
Director of Marketing
412-561-0500 ext. 1005
www.JustBetweenFriends.com

Kansas PTA Scholarship Committee

The scholarship committee of the Kansas PTA is pleased to announce that 2 undergraduate and 2 graduate scholarships were awarded this year to deserving college students. The scholarship program is open to junior and senior year college students who have an education major, a 3.0 or above grade point and plan to teach in the state of Kansas. Information about the program can be found at kansasppta@gmail.com.
The purpose of the Marjorie Holwick Wall of Fame is twofold. It honors a great friend of Kansas PTA and helps to raise funds for the Kansas PTA Future Teachers Scholarship Fund. Marjorie Holwick served for many years as the KSPTA parliamentarian.

Nominated individuals are recognized at the state convention and receive a letter and certificate. Nominations may be sent throughout the school year. This year the following individuals were honored:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Amurge</td>
<td>Comanche</td>
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<td>Tammy Bartels</td>
<td>Kansas PTA</td>
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<td>Laura Bay</td>
<td>National PTA</td>
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<td>Allen Bradley</td>
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<td>Paula Bundu</td>
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<td>Johanna Chamberlin</td>
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<td>Marilyn Cullins</td>
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<td>Tanaya Danley</td>
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<td>Robert DeNooy</td>
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<td>Paul Fein-Falasco</td>
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<td>William Frick</td>
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<td>Ernie Goerend</td>
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<td>Shawna Hammett</td>
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<td>Cornel Hutton</td>
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<td>Dr. Gene Johnson</td>
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<td>Sharon Julius</td>
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<td>Patty Jurich</td>
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<td>Rae Ann Kobylnski</td>
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<td>Dawn Lalumondier</td>
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<td>Debbie Lawson</td>
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<td>Becky Lovelwell</td>
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<td>Eve May</td>
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<td>Linda Pothu</td>
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<td>Jennifer Spencer</td>
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<td>Denise Sultz</td>
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<td>Becca Wayner</td>
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<td>Vicki Whisenant</td>
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<td>Lisa White</td>
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<td>Carlen Wiess</td>
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<td>Carol Willard</td>
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<td>Mia Woldridge</td>
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It’s Time to Renew Your Insurance!

Kansas PTA has negotiated great rates for your PTA Bonding and Insurance needs and now is the time to renew. RV Nuccio is our Insurance provider. If you haven’t renewed your coverage, please do so now so your certificate is back by the beginning of the school year and your planned PTA functions will be held without interruption. Some school districts will not allow PTA events until the certificate is on file with the district. Kansas PTA recommends every unit purchase, Bonding, Liability, and D&O Insurance. Questions, please contact me.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA Treasurer
Keys to Leadership Passport Award Program

Kansas PTA’s Keys to Leadership Passport Program recognizes PTA members for their commitment to developing leadership skills. By simulating personal and professional growth, the Keys to Leadership program seeks to help you master skills and lead others to achieve PTA goals. It provides you – local unit leaders, committee members and youth leaders – an opportunity to reach your full potential.

We encourage you to participate in the Keys to Leadership Program to:

- Become a more effective volunteer while building both knowledge and leadership skills.
- Enhance your personal resume while participating in PTA training and volunteer service.
- Be recognized for the advancement of personal learning as you advocate for all children.

Passport booklets may be obtained through your Regional Vice Presidents or the Kansas State PTA Office. Each leader uses a passport booklet to record completed requirements. The calendar for the Keys to Leadership Passport will be April 1st through March 30th. Each level must be completed within 2 years to complete with the objective being one level per year.

In order to be recognized at convention, passports must be submitted to the State Office at least 30 days prior to convention. Only 1 level will be awarded. You must complete the previous level prior to moving on to the next.

There are a total of five levels of opportunity to earn towards the Keys to Leadership Program. The first four levels are for individuals. They are the bronze, silver, gold and platinum levels. Each level needs 75 points. All levels must go in order. Each needs to be signed by the Regional Vice President or a member of the State Board of Managers. By developing strong leaders, we give strength to the PTA.

The Unit Award is for Schools, Units or Councils. This level is designed to recognize the leadership achievements, activities and events of PTA units and councils. Units must fulfill at least 12 of the 16 requirements. This award can be earned every year.

Provide adequate funds in your unit’s budget to enable multiple representatives from your unit to participate on an ongoing basis. Training is a legitimate, appropriate PTA expense. Consider it a mandatory item in your budget.

Personal and organizational leadership development is the responsibility of the individual, so also is the maintenance of your passport booklet. Make a copy of the booklet in case of loss. Any questions please check with the Leadership Chairman listed on Kansas-pta.org website.

Kansas PTA will recognize all recipients of the Keys to Leadership Program at the annual state convention and in an appropriate issue of the PTA Bulletin. If you are not able to receive your award in person, it will be mailed to you following convention.

The Kansas PTA “Keys to Leadership” Passport program recognizes members for all they do for our children. Their commitment is what makes them great leaders. Kansas PTA offers the opportunity to document this continued achievement in your personal passport. Your support though participation is what helps our PTAs to succeed.

Bronze Award - Sarah Baker, Allen Bradley
Silver Award - Dawn Lalumondier
Gold Award - Tammy Bartels
Platinum Award - Marie Thomas, Debbie Lawson, Lauri DeNooy, Denise Sultz
The Recipe for Raising Drug-Free Kids: Frequent Family Dinners

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

Family Day is a national effort to promote parental engagement as a simple, effective way to reduce substance abuse in children and teens and raise healthier children. Family Day, which is celebrated on the fourth Monday in September—the 26th in 2011—is gaining significant momentum.

CASA research consistently shows that regardless of a teen’s gender, family structure or social or economic status, frequent family dinners make a difference in teens’ lives.

Compared to teens who have frequent family dinners (five to seven per week), those who have infrequent family dinners (fewer than three per week) are twice as likely to have used tobacco, nearly twice as likely to have used alcohol, and one-and-a-half times likelier to have used marijuana, according to CASA’s The Importance of Family Dinners VI, 2010.

The report also found that frequent family dinners are also associated with higher academic performance. Teens who have dinner with their families five to seven times in a typical week are 50 percent likelier to get mostly A’s and B’s in school than teens who dine with their families fewer than three times per week.

This year, celebrate Family Day—A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children™, on Monday, September 26th, by joining parents all across the country to take the Family Day STAR Pledge to commit to:

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

Dinner Makes a Difference!

We encourage everyone to celebrate Family Day by eating dinner together on September 26th and every day. You or your organization can play an important role by increasing awareness about the importance of Family Day in your community.

For more local information and items you can use, please see the Kansas Family Day Web site at: http://www.kansasfamily.com/GetInvolved-FamilyDay.cfm or call (800) 206-7221. Feel free to link to us!

The national Family Day Web site can be located on CASA’s Web site: http://casafamilyday.org/familyday/
New Unit Award
Region 1
Frances Willard Elementary PTA
Parker Elementary PTA
Welborn Elementary PTA
Region 6
Black Bob Elementary PTA
Region 8
Shawnee Mission ISC Early Childhood PTA

President’s Challenge Award...awarded to units with at least 25% membership increase over previous year.
Region 1
Bertran Caruthers PTA
Emerson PTA
Eugene Ware PTA
McKinley PTA
Stony Point North PTA
William Allen White PTA
Region 3
Bryant PTA
Eisenhower PTA
Freeman PTA
Kennedy PTA
West Elementary PTA
Region 4
Cottonwood Elementary PTA
Eisenhower Elementary PTA
Northview Elementary PTA
Region 5
Galena Elementary PTA
Region 6
Forest View Elementary PTA
Garfield Elementary PTA
Indian Valley Elementary PTA
Monticello Trails Middle PTA
Region 7
Midland Trail Elementary PTA
Oak Grove Elementary PTA
Tonganoxie Elementary PTA
Turner Elementary PTA
Region 8
East Antioch Elementary PTA
Mission Valley Middle School PTA
Nieman Elementary PTA
Overland Park Elementary PTA
Rhein Benninghoven Elementary PTA
Tomahawk Elementary PTA
Trailwood Elementary PTA

Tomorrow’s Leaders Today Award...
awarded to 1 unit with highest percentage of student members
From Region 8.....Shawnee Mission Northwest High School PTSA

Leaders of the Future Award...awarded to 1 unit with highest number of student members
From Region 8.....Shawnee Mission Northwest High School PTSA

Male Involvement Award...awarded to 1 unit with highest percentage of male members.
From Region 6......Cottonwood Point Elementary PTA

Male Engagement Award...awarded to 1 unit with highest number of male members.
From Region 8......Corinth Elementary PTA

Gold Award...awarded to 1 unit with greatest increase in membership.
From Region 6.....Monticello Trails Middle School PTA

Silver Award...awarded to 1 unit with greatest percentage increase in membership.
From Region 1.....Eugene Ware Elementary PTA

***We did not have any council qualify for the Council Achievement Award***

Thriving Unit Awards
Masters in PTA Award... Units that have submitted their Incoming Officer Form to the Kansas PTA office, filed their 990 with the IRS and sent a copy to the Kansas PTA office, and which have been represented at a Regional PTA training (if available) and a State PTA training.
Forest View Elementary PTA....Region 6
Oak Grove Elementary PTA....Region 7
Apache Elementary PTA....Region 8
Comanche Elementary PTA....Region 8
Overland Park Elementary PTA...Region 8
Pawnee Elementary PTA...Region 8
Rhein Benninghoven PTA...Region 8

PhD in PTA Award... Units that have achieved the Masters in PTA Award and have also been represented at a National PTA training.
Oak Grove Elementary PTA...Region 7
Apache Elementary PTA...Region 8
Comanche Elementary PTA...Region 8
General Membership Awards

Region 1
Arrowhead Middle School PTA...Community Outreach
Bertran Carthurs PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Bethel Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge, Making a Difference
Claude Huyck Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Eisenhower Middle School PTA...Early Bird
Emerson Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Eugene Ware PTA...Early Bird, Challenge, Making a Difference, Community Outreach
Frank Rushton PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Hazel Grove Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
McKinley PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Parker Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark
Silver City Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Community Outreach
Stony Point North Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Challenge, Making a Difference
Washington High School PTSA...Early Bird
William Allen White Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference

Region 2
St. Francis Elementary PTA...Early Bird

Region 3
Allen Magnet PTA...Early Bird
Bryant Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Eisenhower Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Enterprise Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Freeman Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge, Making a Difference
Kennedy Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Kensler Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Nelson Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Washington Elementary PTA...Golden Apple
West Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge, Making a Difference

Region 4
Cottonwood Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Eisenhower Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Ft. Riley Elementary PTA...Challenge
Grace E. Stewart Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Northview Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
South Middle School PTA...Early Bird

Region 5
Galena PTA...Early Bird, Challenge, Making a Difference

Region 6
Bentwood Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple, One Voice for Every Child, Kansas Honor Roll
Black Bob Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark
Broken Arrow Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Clear Creek Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Kansas Honor Roll
Cordley Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Cottonwood Point Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, One Voice for Every Child, Kansas Honor Roll
Forest View Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Challenge, Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll
Garfield Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Horizon Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple, Community Outreach
Indian Valley Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge, Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll
Mill Creek Middle PTA...Challenge
Monticello Trails Middle School PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Osage City Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge
Oxford Middle School PTA...Early Bird, Kansas Honor Roll
Prairie Ridge Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Kansas Honor Roll
Riverview Elementary PTA...Kansas Honor Roll
Starside Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark

(Continued on page 10)
Region 7
Junction Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple
Lansing Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple
Midland Trail Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Oak Grove Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple, Challenge, Making a Difference, Community Outreach
Tonganoxie Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Turner Early Learning Center PTA...Early Bird
Turner Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Challenge, Making a Difference, Community Outreach
Turner Middle School PTSA...Early Bird

Region 8
Antioch Middle PTA...Challenge
Apache Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark
Belinder Elementary PTA...Early Bird, One Voice for Every Child, Challenge, Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll
Briarwood Elementary PTA...Golden Apple
Broken Arrow Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge
Brookridge Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge
Brookwood Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Comanche Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Community Outreach
Corinth Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge, One Voice for Every Child, Kansas Honor Roll
Crestview Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark
Dorothy Moody Elementary PTA...Early Bird
East Antioch Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple, Challenge, Making a Difference
Highlands Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple, One Voice for Every Child, Challenge, Kansas Honor Roll
Hocker Grove Middle School PTA...Early Bird
Indian Hills Middle School PTA...Early Bird, Kansas Honor Roll
Indian Woods Middle School PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple
John Diemer Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Kansas Honor Roll
Merriam Park PTA...Golden Apple, Community Outreach
Mill Creek Elementary PTA...Kansas Honor Roll
Mission Valley Middle PTA...One Voice for Every Child, Challenge, Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll
Nieman Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Challenge, Making a Difference
Oak Park Carpenter Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Challenge, Kansas Honor Roll
Overland Park Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge, Making a Difference, Golden Apple, Community Outreach
Pawnee Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple, Community Outreach
Prairie Elementary PTA...Challenge
Ray Marsh Elementary PTA...Challenge
Rhein Benninghoven Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge, Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll, Community Outreach
Rising Star Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Roesland Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Rushton Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Challenge, Community Outreach
Santa Fe Trail Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, Kansas Honor Roll, Community Outreach
Shawano Elementary PTA...Early Bird
Shawnee Mission East High PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark
Shawnee Mission ISC Early Childhood PTA...Early Bird
Shawnee Mission Northwest High PTSA...Challenge, Making a Difference
Shawnee Mission South High PTSA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge
Shawnee Mission West High PTSA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Community Outreach
Sunflower Elementary PTA...Challenge, Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll
Tomahawk Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Challenge, Making a Difference, Community Outreach
Trailridge Middle School PTA...Early Bird, Meadowlark, Golden Apple, One Voice for Every Child, Challenge, Kansas Honor Roll
Trailwood Elementary PTA...Early Bird, One Voice for Every Child, Challenge, Making a Difference, Kansas Honor Roll
Westridge Middle School PTA...Early Bird, Community Outreach
Westwood View Elementary PTA...Early Bird, Golden Apple, Kansas Honor Roll
These membership fliers will be available in your Summer Packet CD (turn in your new officer form to the KS PTA office to receive your Summer Packet CD) and also available online at www.kansas-pta.org.

The Kansas PTA office is here to help your PTA unit. Give us a call if you have any questions!
Know the names of your legislators instantly with a click on the CAPWIZ link at kansas-pta.org

*Who speaks for the children?* The PTA does. We are caring parents and other concerned adults whose main focus is the well-being of children. The PTA was founded by mothers in 1897 to improve children’s lives and learning, at a time when women did not even have a vote. Together they were *a force for good* in addressing social problems that affected families, such as child labor, rampant childhood disease, a criminal justice system cruel to youth, and the creation of kindergarten classes.

*Today we strive to continue our association’s dedication to advocacy, but here is the reality:* often our good intentions flounder when the busy demands of our lives are overwhelming. Kansas PTA understands, and because we do, we have made available the CAPWIZ program to all unit PTA members in Kansas. It gives the help needed for one to make it over the first hurdle in taking action on an issue, and eases the way to the finish line.

Access the Capwiz link at [www.kansas-pta.org](http://www.kansas-pta.org), the Kansas PTA website.

Use the "Legislative" link on the Kansas PTA home page to find the CAPWIZ link. With only the insertion of a Zipcode or street address, the CAPWIZ program can immediately inform a PTA member about their state and federal elected officials — names, home addresses, committee assignments — and it provides *five ways to deliver your messages*: e-mail, mail, fax, hand delivery and phone.

By signing up, members will also receive via email National PTA’s Action Alerts, which have timely information on federal legislation affecting children.

*Our kids need our advocacy and support.*

Please encourage each member of your PTA unit to make at least one contact with a decision-maker this year.
From Your State PTA Treasurer …

It’s Time for Your Annual Audit!!!

Do you have an audit committee formed? If not, please check your bylaws and standing rules for the formation of this committee. Complete audit procedures and reporting forms can be found in the National PTA “Money Matters Quick Reference Guide” or the Kansas PTA Treasurers Guide on the Summer Packet CD. You can also download the forms from www.pta.org. If you need help, please contact me for assistance.

Below is the information from “Money Matters” for the preparation for an Audit.

Preparation for an Audit

Financial records should be put in order for the auditing process shortly before the end of the term of office or the end of the fiscal year. The outgoing treasurer cannot pay bills after the books are closed for audit. Upon assuming office, the incoming treasurer may deposit funds in the PTA bank account. During the audit process it is recommended that expenditures within an adopted budget be limited to those of an emergency nature. The audit should be completed as quickly as possible.

The treasurer shall deliver the following to the auditors:
• A copy of the last audit report
• Checkbook and canceled checks
• Bank statements and deposit receipts
• Treasurer’s book or ledger
• The annual financial report
• Itemized statements and receipts of bills paid
• Check requests
• Copies of board, executive committee, and organization minutes that would include an adopted budget, as well as any amendments that were approved during the year
• Current bylaws and standing rules
• Any other information requested by the auditor/audit Committee

After the audit, the auditing committee should make a report to the general membership. (A sample copy is found in “Money Matters”. This copy and the final financial statement should be kept in the permanent file.) Please contact me if you need further assistance.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA Treasurer
Kansas PTA advocacy team growing to accomplish more

By Nancy Niles Lusk, KS PTA Vice President of Advocacy

Excitement is rising at Kansas PTA as we look forward to having an expanded team to lead our advocacy efforts in the coming year. With the severe cuts to K-12 classroom funding by the state, and the possible elimination of the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center program by the federal government, the time is now to champion what is best for kids.

**Tripling Leadership.** Our state team leadership will expand to three (rather than just one person stretched thin); the vice president of advocacy, the state legislative chair, and the federal legislative chair. In addition, we will begin recruiting volunteers to serve on an expanded state legislative committee to help realize our objectives for Kansas youth. Let’s capitalize on the wealth of expertise in our parent community.

**Strengthening Local Support.** Spread the word that plans are in the works to grow the service and support provided to the local PTA units and to increase the number of fronts from which we will advance our advocacy efforts. For starters, we will be seeking more feedback from the local PTA units as to what communication lines they have found to work best in distributing advocacy information, how cuts by the state legislature have impacted their schools, and ideas on how to coordinate possible group offensive collaborations. We also plan to hold a special one day Saturday advocacy training workshop in Wichita in the late summer.

**Myth a Month.** In order to inform PTA members on the state school finance issue in digestible amounts, we will be sending the units each month, starting in August, an article for reprint in local PTA unit newsletters clarifying an aspect of the state school finance issue. Each article will debunk one of the many myths which have been distorting the state public education funding debate. Each myth buster will also be posted on the Kansas PTA website.

**Vote Counts.** We will take greater opportunity of House and Senate votes, by posting who did and did not vote on the pro-education side of a bill, along with a clear description of what is meant by ‘pro-education’ in each circumstance.

**Streamlining Legislative Updates.** We are brainstorming ways to make our Kansas PTA Legislative Updates emails briefer, more direct in message, and yet not sacrifice providing our membership with the full amount of background information needed to accurately explain each given issue as well as provide reference links to non-partisan, data-based sources of evidence. The effort may include creating a one-stop-shopping page on the Kansas PTA website of vetted information sources.

**Strengthening Collaboration with Key Stakeholders.** We will continue to include business community leaders and other key stakeholders as a target audience in our efforts to preserve quality public education, in addition to elected officials.

Extreme circumstances call for intensified efforts. The quality K-12 public schools we have known in our communities are on the line, but together Kansas PTA members have and will make a difference. Let’s do it for our kids!
Mr. Michael Mitchener was named Kansas PTA Outstanding Educator at the 2011 Kansas State PTA convention. His rapport with students and parents, open lines of communication, open door policy, fairness, support, and willingness to do whatever it takes to get students motivated were some of the qualities to earn him this honor. He is the principal at Nelson Elementary in Haysville, KS.

The district requested that a picture be taken of Mr. Mitchener and Jackie Waters, State President Elect, to place in the district newsletter. It is a first to have an Outstanding Educator and the incoming State PTA President from the Haysville school district.

Welcome and greetings were given to our newest Chartered Members of Kansas PTA during the 2010-2011 Membership Year at the 2011 Convention in Lawrence, KS. Those units receiving official recognition were Black Bob Elementary in Olathe Kansas, Francis Willard Elementary in Kansas City Kansas, Parker Elementary in Kansas City Kansas, Shawnee Mission ISC Early Childhood in Overland Park Kansas, and Welborn Elementary in Kansas City Kansas.

Congratulations to our newly chartered units and we are all looking forward to seeing you at convention next year!!

Denise Sultz
Vice President-Extension Services
2011 Convention Highlights

Marie Thomas
2011 Convention Chair

Installation of 2011-2013 Kansas PTA President

Keys to Leadership Winners

Debbie Lawson
Michael Mitch

Region VP's

Convention Pages

Jackie Waters
Victor Pacini

Virginia Peak Award Winner

Turner Delegation
Apply for a PTA® Healthy Lifestyles Grant

Physical activity and good nutrition help equip children for a day of learning and a lifetime of health.

Your PTA could receive a grant for up to $1,000 to implement programs to promote nutrition and physical activity.

A healthier child is waiting!

Starting May 2011

Application available May 16, 2011
Application deadline:
5:00 p.m. EDT, Friday, September 2, 2011*

Apply at PTA.org/HealthyLifestyles

*PTAs in good standing may apply. All applications will be subject to competitive review.
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Health & Wellness Sarah Baker 10710 West 92nd Street, Overland Park, KS 66214 913-307-0036
Inclusiveness / Diversity Leadership Vacant
Leadership Tony Miller 813 Merrily Drive, Salina, KS 67401 785-819-4684
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OMDR Tammy Bartels 504 South Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66066 913-417-7031
PTA Store / Meeting Assistant Sheila Bunnell 7028 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS 66106 913-375-1652
Publicity / Marketing Vicki Whisenant 2901 N 51st, Kansas City, KS 66104 913-334-9075
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Resolutions Committee Tammy Bartels 504 South Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66066 913-417-7031
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State Bylaws Jackie Waters 1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060 316-522-0706
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Website Robert DeNooy 7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204 913-271-6892

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

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*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

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 the Kansas PTA website at www.kansas-pta.org. Email addresses for all board members are available on the website.
January—February 2010

Return Service Requested

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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.