2010 Kansas PTA Convention
Keeping the Focus

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The end of the school year means many different things to different people. For our children, it’s time to ditch the school bus for afternoon bike rides. For parents, it’s time to keep our kids focused until that last school bell rings. And for teachers, it’s time to reflect on and be proud of the great strides the kids have made in the classroom during this year.

For the last several months – while parents have been packing lunches, helping with homework, attending PTA meetings, volunteering in the classroom and attending conferences – our teachers have been pouring every ounce of their energy into educating our children and building their confidence with passion, enthusiasm and heart. As the school year winds down, it’s the perfect time to honor these dedicated folks with PTA’s Teacher Appreciation Week.

I encourage your PTA to participate this year (May 2-9) and show our teachers just how much we appreciate their tremendous efforts. Our website has tons of activity ideas, downloads and other resources to get you started – use it! And let our teachers know what they mean to us.

Of course, just because the school year is winding down doesn’t mean our efforts are. In just a few short months, on June 10-13, we’ll travel to beautiful, charming Memphis for our 2010 National PTA Convention and Exhibition. There, we’ll have more than 50 workshops, 200 exhibits, hundreds of resources and countless opportunities for you to voice your opinions among a mobilized group of advocates. Each year, it promises to be a powerful event, and this year, we’re kicking things up a notch by incorporating our Emerging Minority Leaders Conference, PTA MORE (Men Organized to Raise Engagement) initiative, and Youth Summit, along with our partnership with PIRC (Parental Information and Resource Centers). It will be an event like no other.

Whether or not you will be attending the National Convention, I encourage you to use your summer as an opportunity for recharging and continuing your valuable PTA efforts. Because, before we know it, back-to-school season will be upon us! I have no doubts that you will have successful summer leadership conferences and help carry your local PTA members through these next few months with conviction, grace and dedication.

So, thank you for all that you do and may your summer be one of stamina, solidarity, sunshine and success!

Charles J. “Chuck” Saylors
National PTA President

PTA.org/chucksaylors
Parent Involvement: One Thing Remains the Same……………..

The present administration has set a goal to reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), now known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB), by the end of 2010. There is no law that affects and directs the educational system in the United States more than this law. Current requirements for parent involvement in NCLB (Title 1, Section 1118) focus attention on parent involvement in school reform. Because educational change, innovation and reform are priority issues in this administration, it has caused me to think often about these topics.

What I have discovered is that the most successful reform initiatives always incorporate collaborations between parents and schools. Collaboration with families is an essential component of any good school reform strategy. Working collaboratively simply changes things! I believe this is because quality relationships between educators, parents and children help to change a school’s culture. Perhaps nothing is more important to the success of any school than school culture built on healthy family-school partnerships.

So, with this in mind, the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) continues to partner with KS PTA to: 1) provide a seamless system of support, resources, and training to families with children from birth through high school, 2) build capacity of parents to become an integral part of their children’s educational success, and 3) develop parent advocacy and leadership skills. This year the KPIRC will be attending the National PTA Conference in June alongside your PTA state leaders. We value the leadership of National PTA and our partnership with KS PTA.

Over 40 years of research has shown us that one thing remains the same…involving families and the community contributes to children’s academic and social success. (Henderson & Mapp, 2007). During 2010, we all have an opportunity to not only actively lead and participate in meaningful parent involvement in our schools but to also provide input and discussion into the national reauthorization of ESEA as it concerns parent involvement. If you wish to ensure that parent involvement remains a priority, now is the time to provide your input. Your local leaders will help you become a part of history!

Thankful for our partnership,
Jane Groff
Director, KPIRC

Important Information
For Treasurers who are Leaving Office

Are you leaving office as Treasurer? Here are some important guidelines to make sure there is a smooth transition.

- Be sure that all state and national dues have been collected and forwarded to the state PTA office.
- Balance the books to be ready for audit.
- Be sure that the PTA’s books agree with the bank balance and outstanding checks, plus cash on hand.
- Prepare the annual report covering the term of office.
- Submit IRS Form 990 if required.
- Prepare other reports required by the government.
- Arrange for the transfer of all records, reports and files to the new treasurer.
- Obtain and file new signature cards with the bank so that the new treasurer will be authorized to sign checks without delay. Arrange for bonding as required by PTA.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA Treasurer
The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee of the National PTA met January 22-23 to consider eight member representative nominees to the National PTA Board of Directors, each to serve for a two year term. The National PTA NLDC also nominated three member representatives to the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee, each for a three year term.

The committee reports the following nominees for election at the 2010 National PTA Convention to be held June 10-13, 2010 in Memphis, TN:

Member Representatives (eight) Board of Directors

- Vito Borrello – New York
- Lupe Morales – Texas
- C. Andre’ Daniels – New Jersey
- Melissa Nehrbass – Virginia
- Jo Ann Ota Fujioka – Colorado
- Denise Sultz – Kansas
- Jean Tokuda Irwin – Utah
- Sophia Waugh – California

Member (three) Nominating and Leadership Development Committee

- Sue Bellows – Michigan
- Tibby Milne – Utah
- Charles Scott – Tennessee

Just Between Friends

Communications Made Easy – Creating Peer Groups

Last year, Just Between Friends was selected as the PTA management & communications system by National PTA. It’s offered free to local PTAs to strengthen your PTA and simplify the lives of leaders and members. Today, Just Between Friends is being used by PTAs in 48 states for member management, communications, volunteer management, directory creation and networking.

One of the unique aspects of Just Between Friends is the ability to create a peer group for effective communications. It’s easy to do and makes communicating with selected people a breeze. This feature of Just Between Friends is so effective in creating groups and communicating with group members, National PTA has adopted it this year to communicate with State PTAs.

If you’re already using Just Between Friends, just log onto the system. Then select the people you’d like to have in the group – maybe people to help with spring field trips or a school dance. You can select as many people as you want. Then, send them an invitation to join and include a codeword that you create. Just Between Friends refers to this codeword as a token on the system.

When invited people join the group, you’ll be able to communicate with them to keep them updated about the group’s activities. The system also sends automatic reminders for events and deadlines. So, your group members can keep their calendars current. And, this all takes place in the private secure environment of Just Between Friends.

Go ahead – create peer groups using Just Between Friends. It’s the easy way to organize people and communications.

Not Using Just Between Friends Yet?

If you’re not currently using Just Between Friends, click here to get started www.justbetweenfriends.com/PTAquickstart. It’ll only take you about 10 minutes to register – minutes that will save you hours of work in the future.

Then, for a list and schedule of Just Between Friends live interactive training webinars and lots of how-to information, just visit www.learnjbf.com.

When you begin using Just Between Friends, you’re ready to start creating peer groups.
Unleash students’ artistic talents

PTAreflections.org

“Together We Can”
2010–2011 Theme
The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI)

By Nancy Niles Lusk, KS PTA Vice President of Advocacy

With the No Child Left Behind Act schools are required to have a certain number of students each year who meet the level of "proficiency," or else the school is labeled as failing to meet AYP, Annual Yearly Progress, and may be penalized with sanctions. Each state sets its own individual levels of benchmarks in reading and math. And each year the federal government increases the percentage number of students who must meet each state's proficiency definition until in the year 2014 when the number will be 100%.

So, what is a state to do if too many of its students cannot pass the tests to meet its definition of student proficiency and therefore too many of its schools fail to meet AYP? Easy answer: dumb down the tests and lower the level of what students are expected to know and learn. In effect, states with high standards are penalized, while states with lower standards are rewarded. Nearly a third of states have lowered their academic proficiency standards in recent years, causing huge disparities in the proficient goals among states.

Fortunately this last March the National Governors’ Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers came forth with the Common Core State Standards Initiative to address these problems, and 48 states and three territories have voluntarily signed on to adopt the standards.

What is the CCSSI?
The CCSSI is an effort designed to improve educational outcomes for students by developing a set of common, voluntary, internationally benchmarked K–12 standards for college and career readiness in English language arts and mathematics. Currently, every state has its own academic standards, which has resulted in a varying expectations and academic rigor for students based on geography. Common core state standards are a first step to leveling the playing field for the nation’s students by increasing rigor in underperforming schools and setting equal expectations for what all students will need to know and be able to do once they graduate from high school. These standards build on the good work conducted by states to date, and help ensure that every student has the same opportunity for a rigorous education that will prepare them for college or career.

Why is it important for students, teachers and parents?
Education standards and level of rigor in instruction vary from state-to-state and often, there are so many and such complicated standards that teachers find them overwhelming to teach. Students receive a variable quality of education across the country, which is especially problematic given high mobility and the need for rigorous academics to ensure US students remain globally competitive.

CCSSI intends to develop a set of fewer, clearer and higher common standards that are evidence and research-based and internationally benchmarked.

- Fewer, clearer standards paired with rigorous curriculum and professional development aligned to the standards will help teachers to know what to teach.
- Common and more rigorous standards also help level the playing field by ensuring that every student – regardless of income or geography—has the opportunity to engage in equally challenging work that prepares them for college, career and citizenship.
- Fewer, clearer, higher common standards also support making clear to parents what the expectations are for what their children should know.
- In a growing global economy, ensuring that the standards are benchmarked internationally will ensure that the nation’s students are able to compete, not only with their peers in neighboring states, but also around the world.

Why is PTA uniquely suited to support the CCSSI?
PTA is a key partner in the initiative and has supported this initiative from the start as it aligns with PTA’s mission and vision to ensure equal educational opportunities for every child. As the largest volunteer child advocacy organization with membership of over 5 million parents, families, students, and teachers, PTA is uniquely positioned to be an influential, credible, non-partisan voice in the initiative. Parents have a critical role to play in the adoption and implementation of common standards, as they are their child’s first advocate and have the best interests of their child as a goal.

How is PTA partnering with the Gates Foundation?
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has granted PTA $1 million to support PTA’s common core standards advocacy strategy, specifically the first year of parent education, training and awareness-building activities.

How can PTA leaders and members get more information?
PTA leaders and members can speak with their State PTA President, National Service Representative or call the National PTA Office of Public Policy for information. The latest information about the CCSSI can be found online at www.corestandards.org.
EXCLUSIVELY FOR PTAS

The Official PTA Kit
2010–2011

See what the Big Box of Possibilities holds for you.

Learn more at PTA.org/OfficialKit
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
PTA®
A Parent Group Unlike Any Other

See the difference over 100 years of parent involvement experience can make for your school.

PTA is at the forefront of boosting parent involvement everywhere. Through the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, PTA shows how families, schools, and communities can work together to support student success.

PTA connects school communities across the country. It’s a place where millions of parents, teachers, leaders, and community members can come together to take part in the national discussion about education and America’s youth.

PTAs run units locally, to best serve their schools. But they are not alone. A team of professional and volunteer leaders is never more than a phone call or e-mail away.

Partner with PTA.
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

Silent Auction Update from Convention

The goal this year for the Silent Auction was to divide the state in half and seek donations from various agencies and companies that would encourage family involvement. Nicci Waters covered Topeka east and Lauri DeNooy covered Topeka west. Even though the economy was a factor, we were able to collect 32 baskets that were donated from companies, agencies and Councils across the state. With the help from all of the participants we raised $987.50 for education scholarships for future Kansas educators.

We would like to thank the following individuals, companies, agencies and PTA Councils for participating in this year’s silent auction: Sunflower House in Shawnee, Judy Tucci, Nicci Waters, Total Promotions, Rae Ann Kobylinski, Ernie Goerend, Salina Schilling Elementary PTA, Gail Vertz, Cosmopshere in Hutchinson, Topeka Zoological Park, Topeka Applebee’s, The Roasterie, Kansas City T-Bones Baseball, Diana Fabac, Tammy Bartels, Quick Trip, Wichita Art Museum Center, Wichita Exploration Place, Sedgwick County Zoo, KCK Council PTA, U.S. Toy Company, Shawnee Mission Area Council, Coleman Company, Kansas City Zoo, Kansas City Royals, Wendy’s Legacy Restaurant Group, Wheat Fields in Lawrence, Cold Stone Creamery in Lawrence, Pin-Up Bowling at the Legends in Kansas City Kansas, Turner Council PTSA, Kansas City Chiefs, and Spangles Restaurants.

Without the support, scholarships would not be possible for our future teachers.

Thank you for making this year’s Silent Auction a success!

Lauri DeNooy
2010 Kansas PTA Silent Auction Co-Chair

Nicci Waters
2010 Kansas PTA Silent Auction Co-Chair
Kansas PTA Board Roster

**State Officers**

*President* Debbie Lawson  
15719 West 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219  
913-541-0806

*President-Elect* Jackie Waters  
1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060  
316-522-0706

*VP Advocacy* Nancy Niles Lusk  
7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-648-2616

*VP Extension Services* Denise Sultz  
9311 West 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-381-7824

*VP Member Services* Patty Jurich  
6125 Kimball Ave, Kansas City, KS 66104  
913-334-6051

*Secretary* Lauren Meyer  
14139 West 84th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215  
913-599-0656

*Treasurer* Marie Thomas  
22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  
913-302-6178

**Region Vice Presidents**

*Region 1 Vice President* Eve May  
8708 Walker Avenue, Kansas City, KS 66112  
913-328-1219

*Region 2 Vice President* Vacant

*Region 3 Vice President* Nicci Waters  
220 Alice, Haysville, KS 67060  
316-554-8011

*Region 4 Vice President* Janet Wood  
148 Florida Avenue, Salina, KS 67401  
785-827-6835

*Region 5 Vice President* Vacant

*Region 6 Vice President* Vicky Needham  
20918 West 71st Street, Shawnee, KS 66218  
913-441-0110

*Region 7 Vice President* Julie Howard  
134 North 71st Street, Kansas City, KS 66111  
913-299-4877

*Region 8 Vice President* Lauren Meyer  
14139 West 84th Terrace, Lenexa, KS 66215  
913-599-0656

**State Chairman**

*2010 Convention Chair* Jackie Waters  
1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060  
316-522-0706

*Arts in Educations & Awards* Lauri DeNooy  
7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-548-7277

*Budget Committee* Marie Thomas  
22833 West 44th Street, Shawnee, KS 66226  
913-302-6178

*Unit Bylaws Review* Diana Fabac  
5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106  
913-375-1644

*Bulletin Editor* Robert DeNooy  
7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-548-2254

*Federal Legislative* Nancy Niles Lusk  
7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-648-2616

*Health & Wellness* Vacant

*Inclusiveness / Diversity Leadership* Michelle Sierant  
1015 South 49th Drive, Kansas City, KS 66106  
913-287-5313

*Leadership* Toni Miller  
813 Merryly Drive, Salina, KS 67401  
785-819-4684

*Male Involvement* Allen Bradley  
1516 N. 85th Place, Kansas City, KS 66112

*Member Outreach/Parent Involvement* Patty Jurich  
6125 Kimball Ave, Kansas City, KS 66104  
913-334-6051

*Membership* Dawn Lalumondier  
8907 W 82nd St, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-642-3340

*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 Wisenant  
8437 Greeley, Kansas City, KS 66109  
913-334-9075

*Representative of Council Presidents* Tammy Wake  
5417 Oliver Street, Kansas City, KS 66106  
913-831-3868

*Resolutions Committee* Tammy Bartels  
504 South Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS 66066  
913-417-7031

*Resource Development* Jackie Waters  
1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060  
316-522-0706

*State Bylaws* Jackie Waters  
1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060  
316-522-0706

*State Legislative* Nancy Niles Lusk  
7700 West 83rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-648-2616

*State Extension* Rae Ann Kobylniiski  
8530 Barkley, Overland Park, KS 66212  
913-341-9124

*Website* Robert DeNooy  
7410 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-548-2254

**Consultants / Committee Appointments**

*Nominating & Leadership Dev* Denise Sultz  
9311 West 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66204  
913-381-7824

*Parliamentarian* Laura Kaiser  
5222 West 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207  
913-341-3078

**Council Presidents**

*DeSoto* Chris Akin  
4820 Milhridge, Shawnee, KS 66226  
913-422-3756

*Kansas City* Monica Crowe  
3047 North 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS 66104  
913-299-5983

*Salina* Belinda Rock  
927 Vassar Drive, Salina, KS 67401  
785-827-3565

*Shawnee Mission* Lauren Meyer  
14139 West 84th Terrace, Shawnee Missions, KS 66215  
913-599-0656

*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.kansaspta.org. Email addresses for all board members are available on the website.
Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers  
715 SW Tenth  
Topeka, KS 66612-1686  
Telephone: 785-234-5782  
Toll Free: 888-311-5782  
Office Hours: 8:00-12:30 M-F  
Fax: 785-234-4170  
Email: kansaspta@gmail.com  
Website: www.kansas-pta.org

May - June 2010

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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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.

REMINDER!!
Please remember that the Pledge of Allegiance should always be a part of your unit meetings. The Pledge of Allegiance is an honored activity, one that sets the United States apart. It should always be included on your meeting agenda. Thank you!