We are so lucky in Kansas to have a Governor that supports PTA and our mission. Governor Sebelius proclaimed September “PTA Membership Enrollment” month in Kansas. And along with a signed proclamation that was included in last month’s Bulletin, we received a special photo opportunity. As you can see in the picture there were 9 of us from the Kansas PTA Board of Managers in a special picture with Governor Sebelius. From right to left are, front row, Sheila Bunnell, Nancy Niles Lusk, Tammy Bartels, Jan Long, middle row, Beth Brown, Patty Jurich, Debbie Lawson, back row, Denise Sultz and Lauri DeNooy. Kansas PTA hopes you took the opportunity to publicize your membership drive in September.
The Kansas PTA Board of Managers met the first weekend of October and accomplished some incredible things. The highlight for the units will be the Uniform Bylaws that every unit should have received in the last couple of weeks along with guidelines for implementing standing rules for your units. We also hosted our first annual Legislative Training, according to the evaluations, it was a roaring success. The committee already has ideas on how make it even better for next year! April Mastroluca our National PTA Extension Liaison was with us for the weekend. She did some training for the board members and presented a workshop for the Legislative Training.

Again, the Bulletin is packed full of helpful information for you and your members. The unit president receives a complimentary copy and you can order extra copies for your board members or they can access the Bulletin on the Kansas PTA website.

We are all here to help you in any way – a complete board listing is on the inside back cover.

Working for all Children

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

Jan Long, Kansas PTA President

A Season of Giving, a New Year of Opportunity

We give to our friends and family during the holidays. We give thanks and, of course, we give presents. We also give donations to our favorite charities. But how much are we giving of ourselves the rest of the year to those we hold dearest – our children? The gift of parent involvement is one of the greatest things we could ever give a child because it will reward them for a lifetime.

During this season of giving, let’s encourage all parents to give a little bit more where it matters most! With the school year nearly half over, how many parents are making good on their promise from the Three for Me program? Use this halfway marker to remind them of their commitment to give time to their children’s education. Are you planning a second half membership drive? Take advantage of the generous spirit and general good will that comes with this time of year to speak to non-members about “giving” to the school community in the new year.

As first semesters and 2007 calendars come to close, let’s also review the results of our first half. Are we welcoming new families into the school community? How did the fall programs fare? Is your PTA connecting with parents, the school, and the community? Our children deserve the best possible chance to succeed – let’s make sure we give it to them.

In 2008, PTA will offer plenty of opportunities for everyone to support student success and well-being. In February, Take Your Family to School Week will literally bring moms, dads, siblings, caretakers, and others into the classroom for a learning experience like no other. Community members will also have a chance to support children this February during Advocacy Week, when we all speak up and demand more for all children. There are so many ways to give – we only need to establish the connections that will make them fruitful.

So let the giving begin with the holidays – and carry through all year!

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President
Amy Weber, President of Harmony Middle School, Overland Park, received an exciting email from National PTA notifying them that their unit had been selected as a winner of one of the first ever Healthy Lifestyles Awards. Their unit will receive $500.00 to support their event. The Healthy Lifestyles Award encourages units in their commitment to the healthy growth and development of our children through educational programs.

I spoke with Betsy Landers, National PTA Treasurer at the Missouri State PTA convention October 14th. She was excited to have 350 applications because they did not advertise the contest widely. I’m glad Harmony Middle School took the time to apply and encourage other units to watch for these opportunities.

If you need help, your Region Vice President is always available for assistance or any of the other Kansas PTA Board of Managers. We want our kids to have access to every opportunity that they can!

Congratulations Harmony Middle School!

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President
Was your unit an Early Bird this year? October 1st was the deadline. Actually, Meadowlarks are best known for being early birds and they know how to bring in 25 more members to your unit by January 1st. Be ready to put a shine on that Golden Apple when every one of your certified teachers gets on board with PTA. Also, keep an eye on those membership numbers because if that number meets or exceeds your school enrollment, then there is One Voice for Every Child. And don’t forget to rise to the Challenge by bringing in 5% for members than last year. Don’t fret, if you can’t quite get one voice for every child you can achieve the Kansas Honor Roll by having your membership at least 60% of your school enrollment. On an added note, keep one eye on Community Outreach. you only need at least 10, and this can include everyone except students, parents or guardians, or school staff.

There is also opportunity for Council Achievement. If you are part of a council help them out by making sure your unit has officer names submitted and dues submitted, as well as earn at least one general membership award. Every school in Kansas is full of Tomorrow’s Leaders Today, but it only counts if you are a PTSA and have the highest percentage of student members with a minimum of 20 student members. And of course I don’t know about your unit President, but I know mine has made sure I understand the President’s Challenge which means we need to increase our membership 25% over last year. Gold, gold, gold, your unit can earn gold with the greatest increase in membership over last year in all of Kansas. Silver is nothing to sneeze at, your unit can earn this with the greatest percentage increase in membership over last year in all of Kansas.

And last but not least we really need to remember those above us that work hard for all of our units. We will reward the Region VP with a Sunflower if their region has the greatest percentage increase in membership over last year. And then since we live in the Heartland, our hearts go out to the Region VP whose region adds the most units during the membership year.

Beth Brown
Vice President of Member Services

The PTA Mission

The mission of the PTA is threefold:

• To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children;
• To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
• To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.
SCHIP

If you didn’t make it to the Legislative training in Topeka on October 6, you missed out on a lot of valuable information. You would have received updates on SCHIP, KPRIC, how to be an advocate, Safe Kids, educational issues, and more.

A topic of discussion was underage drinking. With the holiday quickly approaching, it is a topic that will be in the news. You all can help minimize underage drinking by knowing the facts and setting clear rules. Parents and students both need to be educated on the topic.

Here are some number facts for drivers under 21.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>+/-</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol related crashes</td>
<td>528</td>
<td>614</td>
<td>+16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol related deaths</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol related injuries</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>+14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The numbers seem to be increasing instead of decreasing.

Another area of concern is the Alcoholic Energy Drinks. Kansas Attorney General and 28 other state attorney generals have serious concerns. The formulation and marketing of alcoholic beverages containing caffeine and other stimulants is disturbing. There are misleading health related statements with these beverages. The energy drinks containing alcohol are referred to as malt beverages. Their alcohol by volume is notably greater than that of beer. Our youth think nothing of drinking the energy drinks because they bear little resemblance to beer in taste or appearance and they are easily accessible.

If you would like more information, you can contact the Regional Prevention Centers. There are 13 statewide. Here are a few:

**RPC of Wichita Sedgwick County**
Randy Janssens
357 South Lulu
Wichita, KS 67214
913-288-7685

**RPC of North Central KS**
Brenda Haaga
1805 S. Ohio
Salina, KS 67401
785-825-6224

**RPC of Johnson, Leavenworth, Miami**
Janine Gracy
1125 West Spruce
Olathe, KS 66062
913-715-7880

**RPC of Wyandotte County**
Linda Stewart
7250 State Avenue
Kansas City, KS 66112

**RPC of Shawnee County**
Max Wilson
2209 SW 29th Street
Topeka, KS 66611-1908
785-266-8666

**RPC of East Central Ks**
Jen Brinkerhoff
3312 Clinton Pkwy
Lawrence, KS 66047
785-841-4138

There are also RPC’s in Northeast KS, Southwest KS, South Central KS, Flint Hills, Northwest KS-Colby, Northwest KS-East, and Southeast KS.

Resources:
The Advocate, Fall 2007 Issue from the Kansas Drunk Driving Prevention Office
Kansas Family Partnership, Inc

**Jackie Waters**
Vice President of Advocacy
How many Kansas PTA leaders can answer these questions:

Have you completed your Keys to Leadership Card? Do you have a Keys to Leadership Card? Or know where it is? Or not sure what I am talking about? No worries!

If you are like many of us you have lots of papers and information that can get misplaced from time to time or that information is sitting in a “safe” place but you can’t remember where that “safe” place is! Here are some answers:

Kansas PTA Keys to Leadership 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 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.

New and Replacement Cards are available through the Kansas PTA office or Jill Molina, Kansas PTA Leadership Chairman at soniclus@yahoo.com.

Jill Molina
Leadership Chairman

JOIN THE MEMBER-TO-MEMBER NETWORK!

Are you ready to take action on behalf of PTA issues of concern to you? Would you like to receive additional legislative information from National PTA? If you answered YES to these questions, and you are not already a member of National PTA’s Member-to-Member network, sign up today! By joining the network “This Week in Washington” will be e-mailed or faxed directly to you on a regular basis, plus you’ll receive National PTA’s Legislative Action Alerts as they are issued.

The Member-to-Member Network is the grassroots advocacy system that provides direct contact by PTA members to members of Congress. When there is a federal PTA issue of high priority, National PTA asks members to contact their policy makers. National PTA does so by issuing legislative Action Alerts explaining the pending issue and the action to be taken. Because these Alerts are time-sensitive, they are issued by e-mail and fax only. Therefore, your current e-mail address, or dedicated fax number (one that is on a separate number from the telephone line), is needed. Each Alert will contain all of the information you will need to effectively lobby National PTA’s position.

To join the Member-to-Member Network, visit the PTA and Washington section of National PTA’s website at http://www.pta.org/ptawashington/login/info/mem/index.asp, find the link to the network on the left hand column, and click on “Join” to complete and submit an online application.

Nancy Niles Lusk
State Legislative Chairman
Please plan to attend the
94th Annual Kansas PTA Convention
April 18 – 20, 2008
Salina Holiday Inn
1616 West Crawford, Salina, KS 67401

** A wide variety of workshops will be presented for the 2008 convention on topics such health and safety issues, leadership training and parenting tips.

** Three general meetings are planned to conduct the business of your State PTA.

** Wonderful keynote speakers including a member of Rachel Scott’s family to present Rachel’s Challenge.

** Exhibitors will be on site to help with your program and fundraising needs.

** Dollars for Scholars, Silent Auction and the PTA Store

** Golden Oaks State PTA Unit will hold their annual meeting.

** Complete registration packet will be mailed in early January. Early bird registration is $40.00 if postmarked on or before 2/28/08. Advanced registration will be $45.00 if postmarked on or before 3/24/08 and on site registration will be $50.00 if postmarked on or after 3/24/08.

COME JOIN THE LEARNING AND FUN WITH YOUR PTA FRIENDS FROM ACROSS THE STATE --- AS TOGETHER WE CAN WORK FOR A QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN!

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
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National PTA Website: www.pta.org

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Permission granted to local, council, region, and state PTAs to reprint articles for PTA use. Credit must be given to the Kansas PTA. All others requesting permission to reprint articles from this publication must contact the Kansas PTA State Office.

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.
Sales Tax......To Pay or NOT to Pay?

The Kansas Statute 79-3606 grants parent-teacher associations (PTA) a sales tax exemption.

A PTA is exempt on:

All sales of tangible personal property and services purchased by a parent-teacher association or organization, and all sales of tangible personal property by or on behalf of such association or organization.

Like the school it supports, a PTA is exempt from paying sales tax when buying goods or taxable services. However, unlike a school, a PTA is also exempt from collecting sales tax on its sales of tangible personal property. Also exempt, are sales of tangible personal property by others on behalf of a PTA. This exemption from collecting sales tax on sales of goods or merchandise makes a PTAs exemption broader than the exemption for the school for which it is working.

Sales tax is not due when concessions, flowers, T-shirts, and other types of tangible personal property are sold by a PTA, or by a school or other organization on behalf of its PTA. However, when a school is selling tangible personal property on its own behalf, it must collect sales tax.

The Kansas Statute 79-3606, Chapter 79.—TAXATION, Article 36.—KANSAS RETAILERS’ SALES TAX reads as follows:

79-3606. Exempt sales. The following shall be exempt from the tax imposed by this act:

(rr) all sales of tangible personal property which will admit the purchaser thereof to any annual event sponsored by a nonprofit organization which is exempt from federal income taxation pursuant to section 501(c)(3) of the federal internal revenue code of 1986;

I believe this code can apply to PTAs holding an annual event such as a Fun Run. For example, a PTA is hosting a Fun Run to raise money for a Healthy Lifestyle Program. The PTA may provide a T-Shirt upon receipt of the Fun Run registration fee and be exempt from paying sales tax on the registration fee.

Be careful. Annual Event and Tangible Personal Property are key words here. I do not believe stickers and tattoos would not constitute Tangible Personal Property.

The PTA organization must still register to collect and remit sales tax when they are providing taxable services (car washes) or selling admissions (tickets to concerts/fun nights, etc.).

I suggest PTA treasurers refer to the ksrevenue.org website to review (or print out) Publication 1560 Kansas Guide for Schools and Educational Institutions.

If you do not have a Sales Tax Exemption Certificate please read the section regarding Sales Tax Exemption Certificates.

Sales Tax Exemption Certificates

The Kansas Legislature requires the Department of Revenue to issue numbered exemption certificates to exempt entities and organizations. The tax-entity exemption application enables a qualified organization to apply for, update, and print a Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate. The certificate is required to be presented by Kansas based entities to retailers to purchase goods and/or services tax exempt. Publication KS-1520, Sales Tax Exemption Information contains additional information on the use of exemption certificates.

Once a certificate has been issued, there is the ability to update contact and address information, print and save copies of the certificate or cancel the certificate if the organization ceases to exist.

You can also access a certificate that has been issued to the entity. To access the certificate, you will need the Kansas Exemption Number and the PIN that was on the cover letter mailed with the certificate. After logging into KsWebTax, you will be forwarded to the certificate page. Your previous treasurer should have this information specific to your unit in the permanent treasurer files. Read more about the Sales Tax Exemption Certificates in the 2007-08 Kansas Treasurer’s Guide sent to your unit on disk in August (Summer Packet). An example of the certificate can be seen on Page 38.

If you still need help, contact me at srakos@kc.rr.com
Sharon Rakos
Kansas PTA Treasurer
Who says volunteering isn’t rewarding?

Continuing its mission to keep kids physically active and rescue recess, PTA is working with Cartoon Network to raise one million volunteer hours now through June 2008! As part of the Rescuing Recess Volunteer Challenge, volunteers all over the country can serve as recess monitors at their local elementary school and qualify for a chance to win playground equipment and cash grants. It takes four easy steps:

Choose a Recess Volunteer Representative who will act as the recess coordinator to spearhead the effort at your school and register at www.RescuingRecess.com.

1. Download and use the official Volunteer Challenge Tracking Sheet and track all qualifying physical activity-related volunteer efforts.
2. Count your school’s volunteer hours using the official Volunteer Hours Tracking Log during the 2007-2008 school year.

Submit the number of completed hours and total volunteer participation at www.RescuingRecess.com during the official submission periods in February and May 2008!

One school in every state and Washington DC, that completes the most volunteer hours has a chance to win up to $2500 in cash grants and to compete for one national grant of $25,000! See Official Rules at www.rescuingrecess.com Complete Program Details Prior to Registering Your School.

Our Children highlights state PTAs

The December 2007-January 2008 issue of Our Children features great events and programs of three state PTAs. Taking the lead from PTA’s national Emerging Minority Leaders Conference in 2006, New Jersey PTA planned and held its own EML events, with great success. Alaska PTA applied for state grants to promote wellness programs and developed an effective “scholarship” program for its local units. Finally, Texas PTA held a successful Grassroots Advocacy Week in 2007, thus continuing its long tradition of advocacy action in service to children and education. Look for more information about these and other topics in the latest issue of Our Children to hit mailboxes next month! To get members and others in your community to subscribe, send them to visit https://www.pta.org/ssl/ourchild.asp today!

For Students, the Future is Now

Global competition demands that the nation produce individuals who are technologically literate, academically proficient, and capable of adapting to a diverse and changing workplace. That’s why PTA, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, will launch the PTA Goes To Work Career Planning Toolkit in November. To help young adults map out their future, the toolkit features guides in English and Spanish for PTA leaders, parents, and students and a CD-ROM. It will be mailed to state and local leaders and principals of middle and high schools. More online resources can be found at www.pta.org or http://www.pta.org/local_leadership_subprogram_1138815939640.html.
• Healthy Kansas 2010 is an initiative by Governor Sebelius to encourage change to improve the health of all Kansans. There is a website at www.healthykansas.org you can go to and sign a pledge to be a healthy Kansan.

• Don’t Serve Teens Week campaign. Spot Ads with Attorney General Paul Morrison were on the radio as public service announcements. 65% of teens get alcohol from family and friends. How do they get alcohol? It’s in the refrigerator, next to the milk. 50% of children have consumed alcohol by the age of 15.

• Kansas Action for Healthy Kids – Partnership with Kansas PTA. Increased push to get out information on the role of sound nutrition and physical activity in academic achievement – Study shows reduction of 240 minutes of class time from academics for physical activity lead to consistently higher math schools – Intense physical activity has positive effects on academic achievement such as increased concentration; improved math, reading, and writing test scores; and reduced disruptive behavior

• SCHIP Reauthorization (State Children Health Insurance Program) Senate wanted to expand by $35 billion over 5 years with a 61 cent cigarette tax and add 5 million children to plan. House wanted to expand by $47.4 billion with cuts to Medicare Advantage and a 45 cent cigarette tax to add 5 million children. Compromise .60-$1.00 jump in cigarette taxes. 35 Billion over 5 years. President Bush vetoed because he feels it is an expansion of the federal role in health care and because he feels that it would push the 250%-above-poverty-level cap. Senate feels they have enough votes to override veto but the house does not. Funding may need temporary authorization because current authorization expired September 30.

• KSDE offering workshops to give teaching strategies to address The 6 Risk Behaviors of Adolescents as defined by the CDC. They include: alcohol and other drugs; smoking; nutritional behavior; physical activity; intentional and unintentional injuries; and sexual behavior. Closest one Nov 19 in KC, KS.

• Kansas Safe Schools – In accordance with SB 68 (the latest school finance bill) KSDE created the Safe Schools Resource to help answer Rachel’s challenge. You may remember that Rachel Scott was the first student shot during Columbine. SB 68 mandates that school districts must adopt policies prohibiting bullying on school property or school vehicles and at school sponsored activities. A student is being bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more students. Bullying implies an imbalance in power or strength. The student who is bullied has difficulty defending himself/herself. This must be in place in each school district by 1-1-2008. KSBA is offering ongoing training in this venue. FYI A member of Rachel’s family will be a keynote speaker at Kansas PTA convention in April.

• Smokeless is not harmless – National average of high school males who chew tobacco is 13.1%....Kansas is 17.4 % or approximately 16,000 of our young men. Many of them believe that because they are not smoking that this is a safer way of getting tobacco. There are 28 known carcinogens in chewing tobacco. They are not at as high of risk of lung cancer but the risk for cancer of the mouth, tongue, lips and esophagus, stomach and bladder shoot up with this use. This is from the 2006 Kansas Health Institute report.

• Kansas Department of Education has added an advisor to look at the environmental impact on health in Kansas. There is a current addition to a power plant in Kansas that has been on hold for 16 months as the state looks at this impact. There is also a plan to look at the use of pesticides in schools (most pesticides are designed for outdoor use. When used indoors they linger longer). National PTA has a green initiative to encourage schools and school districts to go with environmentally friendly cleaning products to help improve the health of the students. www.ksde.org

• The more often children and teens eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink, or use drugs, according to research by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University.

• Kansas Coordinated School Health is a program that was formed through cooperation between the Kansas Department of Education and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. They have an Eight

Snip It’s from Health and Wellness
Component Model with those components being: Health Education; Physical Education; Health Services; Nutrition Services; Healthy School Environment; Health Promotion for Staff; Family/Community Involvement; and Counseling, Psychological, & Social Services. Their main focus is better nutrition, increased physical activity and smoking/chewing tobacco cessation. Why those three? They are the main contributors to the 4 leading causes of chronic disease in the US: Heart/cardiovascular – Stroke – Diabetes – Cancer. In 2006, U.S. spent almost 2 Trillion on health care with 5% of that on prevention. In 2015, it is estimated that number will be closer to 4 Trillion or double in less than 10 years. 440,000 citizens lose their life each year to tobacco related causes and an additional 330,000 due to results from poor nutrition or no physical activity. www.kshealthykids.org

- Kansas Oral Health initiative as part of the Health Kansas 2010 is looking at improving the health of children by preventive dental care and good oral health practices. This is achieved by good parental practices in not giving children pop and fruit juices in sippy cups, good brushing and flossing habits (twice a day), drinking more water, using sealants and fluoride varnish for protection.

- Hand sanitizers can be very toxic to toddlers and small children. Most of them are 60+% ethyl alcohol. Please follow the labeled warnings: Keep Out Of The Reach Of Children Except Under Adult Supervision.

- Graduated drivers license in Kansas. Teenagers brains may not be mature enough to make all of the multiple split-second decisions needing to be made to be a safe driver. More teenagers die in traffic accidents between the hours of 9:00 PM and midnight than at any other time. More teenagers die when they have multiple non-adult passengers in the car. There is a movement to consider changes to the licensing in Kansas to a probationary 6 month period after they receive their license to not being able to drive after 9:00 without an adult and to restricting the number of non-adult passengers in the car.

- The advisory committee on Immunization Practices has updated their advisory on the Meningococcal conjugate vaccine (MCV4), commonly referred to as meningitis and has lowered the recommended age from college-entrance down to the age of recommendation of 11-12 year olds. Some forms of meningitis can be spread through drinking after one another, kissing, coughing, etc.

- If you need additional resources for a health fair or to help you with information about wellness issues it could be as close as your local county public health department or your county public extension office. Check them out.

- Kansas Don’t Spoil It is a program to encourage keeping the environment in Kansas clean and healthy for all who live here. This is an area where every resident of Kansas can make a difference in the lives of all residents of Kansas.

- Cartoon Network has renewed their commitment to children’s health and wellness and parent involvement with the announcement to continue to partner with PTA to rescue recess. www.PTA.org

Denise Sultz
Health & Wellness Chairman

Apply for a Take Your Family to School Week Award! New Deadline!

What will your unit do to welcome families into school this February? Will you have $1,897 to support those plans?

You could if you plan to celebrate PTA Take Your Family to School Week, February 10–16, 2008, and apply for a Take Your Family to School Week Award. Award applications are due to PTA national headquarters by Wednesday, November 28. This is an extended deadline so you have more time to apply!

Go to www.pta.org/familytoschool for an award application, online planning guide (pdf version), and event ideas. Your printed planning guide is in the mail.
Youth Advisory Committee Members – better known as YAC – Matthue Brown, BRANDEN BROWN, Jessica Rakos, Alex Bartels and Kayla Crowe.

Debbie Lawson was caught wearing lavender on game day. She is a KU fan!

Legislative attendees are attentive on the information being shared.

Nancy Niles Lusk, Kansas PTA State Legislative Chairman working at the PTA Store during the Legislative Training.

Jane Groff, KPIRC Director sharing information with the Legislative attendees. Diana Fabac, Kansas PTA Extension chairman listens.

Mark Thompson, Kansas Coordinated School Health shares information at the Legislative Training.
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was first enacted by the federal government in 1965 to ensure educational opportunities for our nation’s most disadvantaged youth. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 is the latest reauthorization of the ESEA and at this time, is currently undergoing reauthorization again. This means that both houses of Congress are putting together recommendations for how they think the law can be improved.

Title I of No Child Left Behind is funding that schools receive to improve the academic achievement of disadvantaged students in schools and is intended to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers. As of the 2006/07 school year every school district in Kansas received Title I funding – although not every school received funding. Depending on the poverty level of the school, based on free and reduced lunch counts, Title I programs are either targeted assistance programs (where services are provided to students with academic need who are eligible to receive additional services) or “schoolwide” programs (when the poverty level is at or above 30% in Kansas and strategies to improve the education of all students are implemented). The law specifies that schools and districts receiving Title I funds must comply with federal requirements for parent involvement.

Following are some of the requirements of NCLB concerning parent involvement and sample questions you might ask your principal:

**Requirement** – The school is required to explain to parents the state academic standards, state and federal testing requirements, and test scores at their child’s school and district.

**Questions to Ask**
- What can I do at home to help my child succeed in school?
- How are state academic standards, the curriculum in my child’s classroom, and my child’s scores on state tests connected?
- What options or interventions does the school offer if my child is not doing well?
- What is my child’s teacher doing to recognize my child’s learning strengths and help him/her tackle learning challenges?

**Requirement** – Parents need to know the federal and state requirements for teachers to become highly qualified.

**Questions to Ask**
- Is my child’s teacher highly qualified?
- How many teachers in this district/school are qualified?
- What is the district doing to help all teachers become qualified?

**Requirement** – Schools are required to help parents interpret disaggregated data and understand what data means.

**Questions to Ask**
- How will I know if my child’s school is a good place to learn?
- In what areas does my child’s school need to improve?
- How will the district help children who do not perform well on state tests?
- What children are not tested? How do scores of new students compare to scores of long-time students?

**Requirement** – If the school receives Title I funds it must develop, jointly with parents of children participating in Title I programs, a written parent involvement policy.

**Questions to Ask**
- Does our school receive Title I funds?
- If so, where is the parent involvement policy, who was involved in developing it, and how can I have access to it?
- How often is the policy reviewed and what is the process for making changes in the policy?

**Requirement** – Title I schools must develop, with parents a school-parent involvement policy that outlines how students, parents, and staff will share responsibility for improved student achievement and how parents and the school will build and develop partnerships to achieve state expectations for student achievement.

**Questions to Ask**
- Do we have a school-parent compact?
- Who was involved in developing the school-parent compact?
- How can the school-parent compact be effectively used to improve the achievement levels of all children?
- Do parents understand their role as a child’s most important teacher? Do parents know how they can help children learn at home and in school on a practical, daily basis?
- Does the school offer many opportunities during the school year for parents and teachers to interact, from relationships, and work together for children’s learning?
Governor and Coach Snyder team up to help Kansas youth

He may no longer spend his Saturdays on the sidelines, but Coach Bill Snyder is still on the hunt for recruits. His new target—mentors.

Governor Kathleen Sebelius tapped Snyder, former head coach of the K-State football team, to lead Kansas Mentors, a statewide initiative dedicated to giving every Kansas youngster access to a quality mentor.

Mentoring makes a difference. Studies have shown mentored children are less likely to use drugs and alcohol, to skip school or to get in fights. Mentored children are also more likely to graduate from high school and go to college.

“We know there are approximately 50,000 young Kansans who are interested in having a mentor,” Sebelius said. “I am pleased to have Coach Snyder, a man famous for his tireless recruiting efforts, to help us meet this need.”

In just its second year, Kansas Mentors has more than 200 mentoring programs that serve as partners to it. In addition, through state and federal funds, Sebelius has made more than $800,000 of funds available to mentoring programs to expand their efforts. Kansas Mentors also convened the first-annual Governor’s Conference on Mentoring and held six regional training workshops across the state, which provided administrators the skills they need to have effective mentoring programs.

While these accomplishments are notable, the key way for Kansas Mentors to make a difference is to recruit more Kansans to become mentors. Enter Coach Snyder.

“During my 44 years working with young people, I observed the benefits they derive from the support, guidance, and learning provided by mentors,” Coach Snyder said. “And I believe that there are enough Kansans concerned about the future of our youth that with a substantial outreach effort we can generate thousands of new mentors.”

One of the key challenges is that not enough people know how they can be involved, Coach Snyder said. Kansans can go to www.ksmentors.ks.gov to find mentoring programs located in their area and to sign up to become a mentor.

Another concern for many potential volunteers is that mentoring takes too much time. However, the most common mentoring programs only require volunteers to commit to one hour per week, Snyder said.

In an effort to gain more volunteers, Kansas Mentors will be hosting regional informational sessions this spring. Kansans will be welcome to come in and learn more about mentoring opportunities in their area. Understanding the link between mentoring and workforce development, Kansas Mentors will also work to involve the business community in these sessions.

“There are many Kansas businesses that provide financial support and encourage their employees to mentor, and we would like to foster more partnerships like this throughout the state,” Snyder said.

However, these sessions and the upcoming Governor’s Conference on Mentoring are really for any Kansan interested in youth development.

“I would encourage any citizen interested in future of our youth to attend these events,” Snyder said. “Together, we can make difference in the lives in so many Kansas children.”

More information about these events will soon be available at www.ksmentors.ks.gov.
Kansas PTA Board Roster

State Officers

President .............................................. Jan Long ...................1400 Louise Lane, Salina, KS  67401 ................................... 785-927-9996 .................. janlong1@cox.net
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Region 2 Vice President ............................ Vacant
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*Not a board position.

This issue of the Bulletin is available on our website.

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info@pta.org, www.pta.org
### IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansas PTA Convention</th>
<th>Early Bird Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 28, 2008</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kansas PTA Convention</th>
<th>April 18-20, 2008</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Salina, Kansas</td>
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### Mark Your Calendars

**November**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>National Family Literacy Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>National Parents as Teacher Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Veteran’s Day (observed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-18</td>
<td>Children’s Book Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>National Family Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>19-25</td>
<td>Better Conversation Week</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Universal Children’s Day</td>
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**December**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Special Education Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-8</td>
<td>National Handwashing Awareness Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Special Kids Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-16</td>
<td>Human Rights Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Abilities Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Make Up Your Mind</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**National Adoption Month**

1. National Family Literacy Day
2. National Parents as Teacher Day
12. Veteran’s Day (observed)
12-18. Children’s Book Week
18-24. National Family Week
19-25. Better Conversation Week
20. Universal Children’s Day

**National Stress Free Holidays Month**

2. Special Education Day
2-8. National Handwashing Awareness Week
5. Special Kids Day
10-16. Human Rights Week
22. Abilities Day
31. Make Up Your Mind

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**Kansas PTA Convention**

**Executive Committee**

- Jan Long: President
- 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