This year’s membership theme is "Put Yourself in the PTA Picture."

So I ask you, what do you picture when you think PTA? Do you think of events? Programs? Children? Teachers? Advocacy? What about PTA keeps you in the picture? When you figure that out for yourself, then share your interest with others. Tell them your PTA story. Ask them about their story. Membership is about relationships and the more people that you share your story with, the more people you will have that are interested in being involved in what you do. But membership is not just the responsibility of one person. It is the responsibility of every person that is a part of your PTA. So make sure that all of the PTA members know that they can encourage one other person to be involved either by just joining and helping by paying the membership dues, or joining and volunteering at one event, or joining and becoming an officer or a committee chair.

The possibilities are endless!
Hello!

From Kansas PTA President, Monica Crowe

I just want to take a minute and say Thank You for all you do!

Summer is winding down and school has started again, for some that is a sad time of year, others are excited to be back.

For PTA parents it means a lot of different things: end of year Audits, switching names on bank accounts, planning the calendars, meeting with fundraiser companies, designing new shirts, helping with Back to school nights, organizing parent nights, PTA movie nights, doughnuts with dads, muffins with moms, chat and chews with principals, book fairs, and the list could go on and on. It usually does.... So much to do!

For me it’s a chance to meet new parents, catch up with old friends, get back into schools, see children excited to be in school, and most importantly have parents show their support for their children and their schools. Everyone has heard the old saying “it takes a village” well I encourage everyone to take the time to be part of our “village”. Join a local PTA, most schools would also welcome community members, call and ask the schools or watch for signs to be posted about when they are having meetings, be an active part of the community you live in.

When I have conversations about things I do in my community, I tell people I like to be involved, sometimes that just means showing my support, other times it means I am hands on, I tell people join a PTA, it’s one of the easiest ways to show them you care, then I hear things like “no one ever asked” or “I don’t have kids in school anymore”.  I don’t either but I am a proud card carrying PTA member. At this point in time I have 5 from KS and 6 from other states. It also increases the Voice we have as we advocate for “Our Kids” state wide!

My hope is that you all have a wonderful, active and productive PTA year!

Monica Crowe, KS PTA President.

Monica with her two daughters, Kayla and Melissa, the reasons she got involved in PTA!

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Do your members like to have a card that prove they are a part of your PTA?

Do you have benefits for your unit where members need to show a membership card?

If you said yes to either or these questions, we have membership cards for you. Please email kansaspta@gmail.com and dansks@aol.com and we will make sure that we get some to you!
Is Your PTA an ATM for Your School?

Have you ever felt that your PTA was an ATM for your school’s principal and teachers? Have you ever felt like your principal thought your PTA’s budget was his or her discretionary spending fund? Do you get requests from teachers and school staff to fund certain projects and items that really ought to be part of the school budget?

You’re not alone. PTAs frequently turn over their funds to school administration for such basics as books, equipment and maintenance, not to mention extras, such as playground equipment and vending machines. The relationships that have developed between PTAs and schools have blurred the line about what PTAs are; what vision, mission and purposes we follow; and how our funds should be used.

Vision, mission and purposes

Every PTA’s vision is making every child’s potential a reality. Our mission is to be:

• A powerful voice for all children
• A relevant resource for families and communities
• A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child

PTA’s purposes, or historical goals are as follows:

• To promote the welfare of children and youth in homes, schools, communities and places of worship
• To raise the standards of home life
• To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth
• To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth
• To develop between educators and the general public united efforts that will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education

How PTAs work

• National PTA is a separate legal entity having both a federal tax number (FEIN) and IRS 501(c)3 exempt status.
• Each local PTA unit elects a separate board and officers, and only the elected officers can contractually bind that unit and only for their term of office.
• PTA budgets can only be ratified and approved by PTA members.
• PTA funds raised by PTA members belong exclusively to PTA and can only be used for purposes approved by its members through the budgetary and amending process. Approved uses of funds should be in line with the mission and objectives of the PTA body as a whole.

What PTAs are not

• PTAs are not a supporting organization for the schools where we hold our meetings. Supporting organizations often contract directly with school districts to act on behalf of the schools and are subject to school oversight and approvals for such items as their budgets.
• Teachers or members of the school system holding office in local units may not officially represent the school system on the PTA’s board. Such an arrangement comprises a conflict of interest and will be used to demonstrate that the local unit is acting as a supporting organization.
• PTAs are not an additional funding sources for goods, services and payroll for public schools. School funds should be supplied by governmental entities. PTAs advocate for the adequate funding of schools from governmental sources. They do not replace funds not supplied by governments. Therefore, supplies purchased using PTA funds should be given directly to children, not to teachers.
• PTAs are not to pay bills handed over by the principal of the school. If the school ordered it, the school pays for it.

Remember who we are

If your school board, principal or teachers try to assume control of your PTA’s budget as though it were their own, just say “no.” Remember that PTA doesn’t work for the school—it works on behalf of children and families.

Betsy Landers is a past National PTA President.
September is suicide prevention month. In 2016, the most recent year with statistics available, suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death for Kansas kids ages 5-14, and the second leading cause of death for ages 15-24 (Kansas Department of Health and Environment, 2016). It is important to know the warning signs of potential suicide and to act on those warning signs. Studies have shown that when someone attempts to kill themselves, it is usually based on an acute, temporary crisis and if you can act to restrict access to the means to carry out the attempt, the suicidal feelings will subside. Having ready access to a means of carrying out a suicide, especially firearms, increases the chance that a suicidal person will go through with their plan (Kansas Suicide Prevention Center, 2018). The National Suicide Prevention Resource Center has a free online training to help individuals develop a safety plan for those with suicidal thoughts. The training is at this link http://www.sprc.org/resources-programs/safety-planning-intervention-suicide-prevention.

The Kansas Suicide Prevention website (http://www.kansassuicideprevention.org/) has wonderful resources available, including an online chat system that operates Tuesday - Saturday, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. They also have a suicide hotline number available 24/7, 785-841-2345. Many people prefer texting as a means of communication, and there is now a national crisis text system as well. To utilize the 24/7 text crisis line text Home to 741741 (Crisis Text Line, 2018).

References


Suicide Prevention Month

From Kim Martin, Health and Wellness Chair

JOIN KANSAS PTA
ANNUAL FALL TRAINING EVENT!!
9:30AM—3:30PM
FREE EVENT—register here

Johnson County Central Resource Library
9875 W 87th St | Overland Park, KS

Fall Leadership Seminar
October 6, 2018
See You There!

Agenda Includes:
⇒ Top 10 Things YOUR PTA Should Know
⇒ Get some Dough $$ - Grant Writing Workshop & Nat’l PTA Grant Opps
⇒ Put Yourself in the PTA Picture—Membership
⇒ Leg & Learn Lunch—(details on page 5 of this publication)
⇒ Partnerships Happy Hour

Open to all current & future Parent Group Leadership!

PTA PRIZES

Lunch Included
General Election 2018 November 6th
Advanced voting begins October 17th

Every election is important. It would not be an understatement to say that this year’s election will have a significant impact on Kansas children and public education. It is critical that all Kansans cast an educated vote.

Remember, PTA is a non-partisan organization, we cannot campaign for or endorse candidates. It is important to remind members, friends, family and others in our communities to make sure they’re registered to vote and that they actually do vote. Hosting voter registration drives where people can update their registration or actually register can be very helpful.

Kansas PTA Legislative Platform and Priorities are available here

Make sure to do your homework from a trusted source on your candidate choices. There are various debates available to attend and/or watch in many races. These are a great way to research candidate choices.

If there is even a slight chance you will be out of town on November 6th, contact your Election Office and request a mail in ballot.

**What are the stakes? **Who will we meet with in Topeka?  **What do we talk about with them?  **What if I don’t know all of the details about the issues?

Advocacy doesn’t have to be SCARY. We understand that thinking about meeting with lawmakers and other decision makers can seem overwhelming. Advocacy is not about being an expert on all of the nitty gritty details. It is about starting and continuing a conversation.

In this Leg & Learn, we will introduce the main topics of focus for the 2019 session and why advocating on these topics are important. Lastly, we’ll be demonstrating how a conversation with a lawmaker can go. Demonstrations will be realistic since two of the panel members are current legislators.

Panel Members:

- Judith Deedy – Game On for Kansas Schools – founding member and executive director
- Dale Dennis – Deputy Commissioner Kansas Dept. of Education
- Representative Nancy Lusk (22nd House Dist)
- Senator Dinah Sykes (21st Senate Dist.)
Youth Advisory Committee (YAC)

YAC is a student led organization that helps to bring awareness to everyday problems that teens face and strategies to overcome them. YAC’s goal is to get students involved, build confidence, and become self-advocating. For students in middle school – high school that are interested in getting involved, our first meeting will be help on Monday, December 10, at 6pm. Please join us at the Lackman Library at 15345 W 87th St Parkway, in Lenexa, KS.

We also have a fundraiser event coming up on Monday, Oct 15, at Cici’s Pizza in Overland Park. Please join us!

Parenting a Special Need’s Child
How Involvement in PTA Can Help

While I’m of the mind that every parent/guardian of school-aged children should join their local PTA Unit, irrespective of how much time they may be able to commit, I’m also of the opinion that parents of children with special needs may find that being involved in PTA is helpful in more than just the arena of education.

PTA advocates for every child, of course, and helps parents stay informed about changes in legislation, policies and educational rights while providing avenues for increased communication with school staff and applicable agencies.

It has been often repeated that it takes a village to raise a child. When parents, grandparents and caregivers work together, everyone benefits. That ‘village’ can be even bigger and stronger when families join the PTA. Having the chance to speak with teachers and parents in PTA frequently leads to learning strategies and finding resources that might otherwise go unnoticed. PTA is a fantastic place to share concerns and discover tools that are available to every parent.

The National PTA website is one such resource - https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/Special-Education-Toolkit/Getting-Started-You-Are-Your-Childs-Best-Advocate

There are guides, webinars, explanations about services and much more information at one’s fingertips.

Parents want to do all in their power to help their children succeed – joining PTA is definitely a step in the right direction.

Submitted by Cindy Villa – Special Education Chair – Kansas PTA
4.13.19

State Convention
New Format for 2019!

In 2019, our annual state convention will be a single-day affair. The date is set for Saturday, April 13th at the Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City, KS.

We’ll be packing a great deal of “PTA” into our single day: workshops on relevant & current topics for today’s PTAs and schools, General Meetings, Keynote address, vendors, state board elections, plus two convention favorites - our silent auction and PTA Store!

We hope that our one-day event will entice a large number of PTA units to come get everything out of convention in just one day!

Bonus: We will be hosting a special event on Friday evening for our convention-goers – details to be announced in January.

What to do now:
1. Save the Date - Saturday, April 13, 2019
2. Start announcing this event at your PTA meetings and encourage your board and all members to attend
3. Review your budget and be sure you have a Training line items, so you can help support those wishing to attend
4. Be on the lookout for our official "Call to Convention" in January and send your registrations in!
Handling PTA Money

Collecting funds and disbursing payments must be managed by effective PTA procedures. These procedures protect the PTA, officers and its membership by preventing fraud and ensuring the proper use of funds. Having the right procedures in place also makes it more likely that if a loss occurs, it will be found quickly and covered by insurance less the deductible.

An effective system of financial management procedures includes the following:

• **Put it in writing.** Policies and procedures must be put in writing. Train all PTA board members on these processes and ensure they follow these financial procedures consistently. Review policies and procedures annually.

• **Segregate duties.** Make sure all bank statements and bank reconciliations are reviewed each month by someone who does not have access to the bank account or authority to sign checks.

• **Keep an accurate and detailed file.** An accurate and detailed account of all monies received and paid out is kept in the Treasurer’s permanent file. A filing system is maintained for proper and complete storage of all financial records. (See Records Retention Schedule.)

• **Deposit immediately.** Checks or cash received are logged and immediately deposited to the PTA’s bank account. When receiving cash for an event, it is a best practice to have two people count the cash and write up the deposit together.

• **Reconcile monthly.** When bank statements are received, the checkbook is reconciled to the bank statement immediately, and a copy of the monthly bank reconciliation should be submitted to the Board and membership along with the monthly financial report.

• **Contact Kansas PTA with any concerns.** Fraud generally involves stolen or misappropriated assets such as cash, property, or equipment. If you believe that fraud has occurred, immediately contact your state PTA.

Vikki Mullins, Kansas State PTA State Treasurer

National PTA eLearning Library: access [HERE](#)—worth the watch!

- Local Unit Treasurer: This course is an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of the local unit PTA treasurer. *approx. 40 min*

- Preventing Theft in Your PTA: This course will teach you how to detect theft in your unit and what to do if you suspect it is happening. *approx. 30 min*
Flu Prevention and Other Nasty Germs...
There are lots of things you worry about with your kids. Avoiding catching the Flu and whatever annoying cold going around are probably somewhere near the top of the list. But helping prevent exposure to both can be simple when you use these easy tips to keep your family healthy.

- **Consider getting the Flu vaccine.** It may not catch every strain, but it will minimize the duration and the severity of the flu if you or your children get the flu. Once your family is vaccinated, follow these easy tips to give even more protection.

- **Sing & Scrub or recite the alphabet.** Make sure kids wash their hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. That’s the time it takes to recite the alphabet or sing the Happy Birthday song twice. That will clean off any germs including the flu virus that they may have picked up throughout the day and keep them from sharing those nasty germs with their siblings or their favorite mom.

- **Eat right, exercise and get plenty of sleep.** That will help boost your immune system, which is your body’s way of fighting off the effects of colds and flu.


- **Do the Elbow Cough:** We tell our kids to cover their mouths when they cough, and kids don’t always have a tissue with them when they need to cough or sneeze. Have them cough into their elbows and not their hands, where they are more likely to spread bacteria and the flu virus through touch.

- **Use a Humidifier.** Did you ever wonder why you don’t hear about the flu during the summer? That’s because the flu thrives in low humidity, which we have plenty of during the dry winter months. Using a cool mist humidifier can help keep flu germs at bay. It’s much tougher for flu to survive when the humidity is above 40%. And we all know it can also help ease the symptoms of a cold and help you get over your cold faster.

- **Advise your children to stay away from other children/ people who are exhibiting cold symptoms** such as coughing, sneezing, and sniffing. I heard a Doctor on a talk show say that 80% of all infectious diseases/viruses are gotten by touch. Teach your children how to keep sick people at an arms length or out of their touch zone. And if your child is sick, keep them home. Don’t send them back until they are free of a fever for 24 hours.

- **Don’t touch your face;** We all know the quickest way for germs to enter the body is through the eyes, nose or mouth. Tell them to avoid touching these areas to keep germs out. If they have a sniffle, use a tissue.

Good Luck and Stay healthy. Patty Jurich, Kansas PTA Programs Chair

National PTA eLearning Library: access HERE

**Courses for Local Leaders**
These courses help local leaders improve their skills and illuminate areas of running a local PTA of which new leaders may be unaware.

**Courses for All PTA Leaders**
These courses will help leaders refine their skills, and shed light on areas of supporting local PTA units and running a State PTA.
Nominating & Leadership Development Committee

Hello PTA Leaders!

Kansas PTA is offering you an opportunity to help shape the future of Kansas PTA by submitting nominations for incoming members of the Kansas PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee. Please contact kansaspta@gmail.com for the form to fill out & submit. You can nominate someone or self nominate for this Committee.

The qualifications to serve on the Kansas PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee are:

- Knowledge of other PTA members in their area
- Ability to be objective in their observations of and deliberations about potential officers
- Ability to maintain confidentiality
- Ability to recognize effective leaders
- Willingness to assist in the development of new leaders

You may mail or email this form to the Kansas PTA office. This form must be received in the office by December 1, 2018. If you email it, please send it as an attachment and email it to kansaspta@gmail.com with “NLDC Nomination Confidential” in the subject line. If you choose to mail the form, please send it to Kansas PTA, 715 SW 10th, Topeka, KS 66612

If you have any questions please email me at bbynki@yahoo.com and please put NLDC in subject line.

We appreciate your help and your careful consideration in this process!!

Sincerely, Sheila Bunnell, Chair

State Extension Report by Diana Fabac

The State Extension Chairman and committee charter new units around the State of Kansas. Inquiries come in to the State PTA Office requesting information about how to become a PTA. The contact information is sent to me and an informational packet is sent to those requesting the information. I make contact with the person/school that has inquired about PTA and we set up a meeting to discuss the benefits of being a PTA and how to set up a unit. If the decision to become a PTA is made, there is a charter meeting planned and potential members are asked to attend. The process of becoming a unit is quite easy and exciting. Those attending discuss if a PTA charter is wanted and if so, we suspend the meeting to sell memberships and a vote is taken by the members to charter. It is that simple and we are successful many times.

The last two months have been filled with excitement as we have been successful in chartering several new PTA’s. In August KS PTA was joined by Journey School of Choice in the Turner School District and Lenexa Hills Elementary in the Shawnee Mission School District. September has seen new units at Sumner Academy in the Kansas City, KS School District and Briarwood Elementary in the Desoto School District. Welcome to our new units! We are thrilled to have you join the Kansas PTA!

There is still much more work to do, we are in conversation with 4 other schools in the KCKS district, one in the Wichita area and one in Onega, KS area. If you know of a school that would like more information, or is having conversations about being a PTA, please have them contact the state office at kansaspta@gmail.com or call 785-234-5782 or 1-888-311-5782.

Thank you to all who have worked so hard to assist me in spreading the news about PTA

Like & Follow Kansas PTA on Facebook to stay up-to-date on programs, events, announcements and more, happening in Kansas PTA!
### STATE OFFICERS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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### COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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### FIELD SERVICE REPS

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<th>Field Service Rep</th>
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### COUNCIL PRESIDENTS

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<th>President</th>
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<td>Kansas City Council</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:kckcouncilpta@gmail.com">kckcouncilpta@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Jim Bacom</td>
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<td>KS PTA Office Secretary</td>
<td>Natalie Schweda</td>
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If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office.

Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.