TO: All Advocates for Children

On behalf of the Kansas State PTA Board of Managers, we extend an invitation for you to attend our Legislative Training.

**OCTOBER 11, 2008**
8:30 a.m. Registration
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
at the
**KNEA BUILDING**
715 S.W. Tenth Street
TOPEKA, KS  66612

This training is for those concerned with the education and welfare of children in Kansas. All PTA members are encouraged to attend.

We have a wealth of information to share. There will be workshops to attend and a panel discussion on legislative issues to participate in that affects our state. Topics will include education, health/wellness, nutrition and safety for our children. Information on the No Child Left Behind act and parent involvement ideas will be shared, too.

We are excited to have Todd Haiken, National PTA Public Policy Specialist in Washington DC and April Mastroiuluca, our National PTA Extension Liaison join us for the Legislative Training.

The registration fee is $15.00 for PTA members and $21.00 for non-PTA members (this fee includes a membership to Golden Oaks State Unit PTA). This fee includes all conference materials and lunch.

Please make plans to attend as we work to fulfill our mission to support and speak on behalf of all children and youth in the schools, in the community and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children.

We hope to see all of you there!

**Plan to attend!**
PTA members are encouraged to bring a friend.

Together we can make a difference and impact what is happening in Kansas!
Back-to-School

As you receive this copy of the Bulletin, students are off to another great year of school. Their teachers and support staff provide them resources to make their “job” of learning easier.

So Kansas PTA and National PTA provide resources to make your “job” with your local unit easier. The Kansas PTA Bulletin published 6 times a year is sent to each unit President from Kansas PTA; Our Children Magazine, published 5 times a year is sent to each unit President from National PTA; a summer packet CD is sent to each unit President from Kansas PTA and a Back to School Kit is sent to each local unit President from National PTA.

Every PTA member has access to the multitude of resources on the Kansas PTA and National PTA websites. The Kansas PTA website also has an easy access to email any of the state board members for help – just click on “Email the Board of Managers” on the left side of the home page. If you haven’t checked out the National PTA website lately – check it out. National PTA has recently redesigned their website to be even more user friendly.

National PTA provides e newsletters designed to provide information for parents as well as PTA leaders. If you haven’t signed up for these e newsletters, do it today!

The PTA Parent [parent@pta.org]
PTA Partners in Leadership [partners@pta.org]

We’re here to help – let us know what you need. Have a great year!

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

Get Ready (for Back-to-School)

You could say that back-to-school time is the “busy season” for parents (but really, it’s always busy season for parents, isn’t it?). With the beginning of the school year comes all sorts of preparation. For parents, it’s getting their kids ready to return to the classroom. For PTA leaders, it’s ensuring that students will be able to learn and families able to participate in the life of the school.

While establishing the programs and policies that will define your coming school year, remember that the underlying intention of all PTA work is to get families, schools, and communities to work together. The National Standards for Family-School Partnerships can be your guide as you work with the entire school community in support of student achievement.

This fall will also bring some great PTA programs and events—many of which you can start preparing for now. PTA Start the Art Week will be celebrated again the first full week of October, and followed shortly by the National Student/Parent Mock Election at the end of October and PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month in November. You can learn more about all these wonderful initiatives on www.pta.org, which itself will be an exciting new site just in time for back-to-school this year.

Of course the best way to prepare for the school year is to take advantage of all the resources in the 2008 PTA Back-to-School Kit. The PTA Quick-Reference Guides have been updated, and the Program and Advocacy Resource Guide and Membership Marketing Templates and Tools CD-ROMs are packed with calendars, handouts, fliers, and more.

PTA is prepared to give you all the support you need for the 2008–2009 school year, and with nearly 50 million students expected to enroll in U.S. public schools—a record-setting number—we’ll need all the help from parents, schools, and communities that we can get. Ready or not, here they come!

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President
2008 Legislative Training Registration Form
Saturday, October 11, 2008 - 8:30 am-1:00 pm
KNEA Building  715 SW Tenth Street, Topeka  66612

The PTA Legislative Training registration is $15.00 per person for PTA members and $21 per person for non-PTA members (this fee includes a membership to Golden Oaks State Unit PTA) and includes lunch. Registrations fees are non-refundable. Questions - Please contact the Kansas PTA State office by phone at 785-234-5782 or email kansaspta@gmail.com.

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*Please include email address if member desires to receive Legislative Update & Alerts

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Make checks payable to Kansas PTA       Total enclosed $

Registration forms must be postmarked by Wednesday, October 1, 2008

Mail completed form to:
Kansas PTA, Attn: Legislative Training
715 SW Tenth Street, Topeka, KS  66612

(You may also email forms to kansaspta@gmail.com or fax to 785-234-4170)
2008 LEGISLATIVE TRAINING OVERVIEW

Registration: 8:30 a.m.—9:00 a.m.  Welcome and Introductions 9:00 a.m.

WORKSHOP AGENDA

9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  Workshops
2. Workshop to be announced  *Check the PTA website for updates.
3. Health and Wellness Issues – Mark Thompson, Coordinated School Health Kansas Dept of Health
4. Elections Do’s and Don’ts – Debbie Lawson, Kansas PTA President Elect
5. Advocacy – To be announced  *Check the PTA website for updates

10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  Panel Discussion
Participants are:
Todd Haiken, National PTA Public Policy Specialist
Dr. Mark Tallman, Assistant Executive Director/Advocacy KSAB
Mark Desetti, Director, Legislative and Political Advocacy, KNEA

*Keep checking the PTA website for more updates

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  Box Lunches

12:00 p.m. - 12:50 p.m.  What’s Happening in Washington
Todd Haiken, National PTA Public Policy Specialist

12:50 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.  Evaluations and Wrap-up

DIRECTIONS:

715 S.W. Tenth Street
(the KNEA Building is located on the left side of the street)

From Kansas City: I-70 to Exit 362C, 10th St./Madison St. exit. Turn LEFT onto S.E. 10th St.

From Salina/Manhattan: I-70 to Exit 362B, 8th St/Madison St exit. Turn Right onto S.E. 10th St.

From Wichita: Take 35 (toll) to south Topeka. Merge onto I-470 W via exit 177 toward US-75. Take the Topeka Blvd. exit 6. Turn left onto S.W. Topeka Blvd., then turn left onto S.W. 10th Street.
**Phoebe Apperson Hearst Family-School Partnership Awards**

To better celebrate PTAs for implementing the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, the Phoebe Apperson Hearst National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award and Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification are merging to create three new levels of recognition.

Three levels of recognition are available to local PTAs for implementing the National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: Outstanding Family-School Partnership Award, the Award of Excellence, and the Award of Merit. These awards combine and replace the Phoebe Apperson Hearst–National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award and Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification. The three awards require just one application; there are no fees to apply. The application for the 2008-2009 awards will be posted in August 2008 and due March 1, 2009. Learn more about the awards at [www.pta.org/hearst](http://www.pta.org/hearst).

Please note that Kansas PTA will also recognize state level winners in accordance with National PTA. Local Units should submit their entries to Kansas PTA and those entries will be forwarded on to National PTA after state judging.

Beth Brown  
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services

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**PTA Healthy Lifestyles Award**

To support the observance of PTA Healthy Lifestyles Month in November, PTA offers a limited number of PTA Healthy Lifestyles Awards of up to $1,000 to local units who are making an outstanding commitment to promoting health and wellness in their communities. Applications for the 2008 awards are now being accepted. Applications must be received in the PTA Office of Programs and Public Policy by 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, September 5, 2008. Learn more about the PTA Healthy Lifestyles program at [www.pta.org/healthylifestyles](http://www.pta.org/healthylifestyles).

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**Help for Advocacy Efforts is Available**

Is your PTA interested in doing a voter registration drive, a candidate forum, an open house for candidates, or a candidates display board? Feel free to contact Nancy Niles Lusk, the Legislative Chair on the KS PTA board, for help at nnlusk@kc.rr.com or 913-648-2616. The National PTA website also has much helpful information.

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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.

**KANSAS PTA BULLETIN**  
715 S.W. Tenth Street, Topeka, KS 66612  
PH (785) 234-5782  
FAX (785) 234-4170  
E-Mail: kansaspta@gmail.com  
KS PTA Website: [www.kansas-pta.org](http://www.kansas-pta.org)  
National PTA Website: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

President: Jan Long  
Editor: Shelly Pennington

The KANSAS PTA BULLETIN is an official publication of the Kansas PTA (Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers Association). Subscription rate is $10 per year (six issues). Contact the Kansas PTA State Office to subscribe.

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.
While striving to fulfill the third Purpose of the PTA—"to secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth," it is important for PTA members to understand the nonpartisan IRS rules regarding non-profit organizations.

**NONPARTISAN rules regarding Candidates**

The PTA may take a stand on issues and principles if supported by an adopted resolution or position statement, but it may NOT take a stand on candidates or political parties.

*Issues may become identified with partisan politics because of the differing approaches to the solution, but the basic principles involving the welfare of children and youth are matters of public concern and, therefore, PTA business.*

**The PTA may NOT:**

- Tell members to only vote for a candidate who supports X position
- Invite only one candidate in an election to come speak to the PTA
- Distribute any campaign materials on behalf of a candidate.
- Wear campaign buttons or t-shirts during a PTA meeting.
- Even though an organization can express an opinion about an elected official's position on an issue, avoid doing so during a campaign. Do not ask a candidate to publicly endorse any issue.
- Regular members and board members can support or oppose candidates as private citizens, but they must not associate their political activity with PTA.

**The PTA may:**

- Register Voters. Volunteers must register all eligible voters regardless of party affiliation or political views.
- Remind members to vote.
- Educate candidates on issues important to the PTA.
- Publish a candidates’ questionnaire. All candidates must be given the opportunity to answer the questionnaire and responses must be printed exactly as written.
- Lobby to influence legislation, as permissible under federal tax laws.
- Invite your Senators and Representatives to visit your schools, but it is best not to do so during an election campaign if they are running for reelection.
- Host a Candidate Forum.

**NONPARTISAN rules regarding Candidate Forums**

The IRS can penalize tax-exempt organizations that host a forum that favors or opposes any candidate.

*Guidelines:*

- Invite ALL candidates registered with the secretary of state (or other elections certifying body) and vying for an elective position.
- Any debate must have at least two opposing candidates. If only one candidate will be appearing, you should cancel the forum.
- Inform the candidates about the presentation format
- In all communications, such as the publicity of the event or the introductions, you should emphasize the nonpartisan nature of the event and the nonpartisan method used to qualify candidates for inclusion in the event.
- All candidates do not have to attend for the forum to meet IRS rules, but all candidates must be offered the chance to attend. The IRS can penalize tax-exempt organizations that host a forum that favors or opposes any candidate.
- PTA Board members and event organizers should not wear campaign buttons or otherwise endorse a candidate at the organization’s event.
- Allow all candidates equal time to respond to questions.
- Do not declare a “winner.”

**NONPARTISAN rules regarding Expenditures**

Your local unit may lobby on issues, if supported by an adopted resolution or position statement, though be advised your unit should spend NOT more than 5% of your annual budget on lobbying efforts.

*From Money Matters, National PTA’s publication:* “Under the substantial part test (which most PTA’s use), in order for a PTA to be recognized as being tax-exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) and to receive tax-deductible contributions, it may not devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities (generally interpreted as not exceeding 5% of gross income) to influence legislation.” PTA’s need to report expenses spent on lobbying on their Federal tax form—the 990, that they file in November.

NONPARTISAN rules regarding Ballot Issues

PTAs may take a stand on a ballot measure or a local levy, if supported by an adopted resolution or position statement.

- It is considered direct lobbying because the voters are the decision makers. It is important to remember that working on a ballot measure will count as lobby activities and is subject to IRS non-profit lobbying rules.

- Information about resolutions available at National PTA website: http://www.pta.org/ia_category_details_1141755338062.html

NONPARTISAN rules regarding School Resources or School Employees

Since taxpayer dollars are used to purchase school supplies and to pay the salaries of school employees, any use of school resources or of school employee time could result in an ethics charge being filed against the school system or a school employee.

PTAs are private organizations, and as such are not so restricted. However, PTAs must take all necessary precautions to ensure their actions do not inadvertently cause problems for the school system or a school employee.

To avoid violations, PTAs should follow these guidelines:

- Maintain a mailing list of PTA members, and mail campaign materials (including newsletters if they contain promotional material) directly to PTA members. Do not use a school-supplied mailing list. Do not send campaign material home with students.
- Copy all campaign material off school premises. Do not use school copiers.
- If the PTA website is sponsored by the school, then do not put campaign materials on the website.
- If the PTA website is independent of the school, then campaign materials may be put on the website. It is okay for the school’s website to link to the PTA website.
- Distribute campaign material during PTA meetings. If the school system has a policy allowing private organizations to use the buildings, the PTA meeting is a private meeting and distribution of materials does not violate the law.
- Distribution of educational material (non-promotional) using school resources is NOT a violation of the law. For example, you can send home a flyer with students urging parents to vote in the upcoming referendum; however, you may not urge them to vote “YES” unless you mail the flyer using the PTA’s distribution

NONPARTISAN rules regarding Political Action Committees

The PTA may NOT contribute to a political action committee (PAC) whose whole purpose is to influence the election of any individual to public office.

PTA may support a PAC that takes a position on a ballot issue (such as for a zoning or constitutional matter, school levy, or statewide referendum). However, the PTA must be absolutely certain that the PAC it supports is strictly issue-oriented and does not support or oppose any candidate or party.

For more information about what PTAs can and can’t do to maintain their nonpartisanship status, here are some helpful sources:

- Alliance for Justice Non-profit Advocacy Resources; http://www.allianceforjustice.org/for-nonprofits-foundations/resources-and-publications/
- Center for Non-profit Management; http://www.cnmsocal.org/ForNonprofits/FAQLobbying.html#3
- PTA Parameters:

In addition to understanding IRS restrictions, please be informed that a local PTA unit may not advocate a position opposite one the National PTA or the Kansas PTA has taken on an issue; nor can you or other individuals of your unit do so using your PTA job titles.

PTAs can support or oppose existing or proposed policies when the state or the national PTA organization has no stated position on the issue. PTAs can also develop their own initiatives and advocate for them. It is important to attain consensus for action and gauge the level of support among local PTA members before engaging policy makers under the PTA banner.

Cont’ Nonpartisan Parameters/Guidelines – Important to know:
Membership Theme

The membership committee and the president should work together to develop a membership theme. The president may request the membership committee use a specific theme. PTAs may select the current Kansas State PTA/National PTA theme.

Should the PTA select a different theme, consider how it will appeal to everyone the PTA is trying to reach. Consider how to utilize the theme in the year-long efforts to enroll new members. It is also important to consider the incentives and rewards that will be provided as a part of the membership campaign.

While it is fun and exciting to watch the enrollment numbers grow as the membership campaign progresses, the chairman also should remember the students whose parents may not be able to join PTA. It is strongly recommended to provide an incentive for students to return the membership envelope with or without membership dues enclosed and an educational activity or event that involves the whole school in when the membership campaign is complete.

Membership Theme Ideas

Ideas for themes can come from many places. The school mascot or a community symbol can serve as inspiration. Here are some successful themes that can be used or adapted.

- Byte Into PTA
- Charge Our Children to Succeed
- Up, Up and Away with PTA
- Branch Out to Students
- All the World Is a Stage
- Get Roped Into PTA
- Lend a Hand
- Be a Member of the Pack
- Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of PTA
- Be Part of the Production Join the Cast
- Grow with Us
- Lend a Child a Hand
- Don't be Left in the Dust, PTA Membership is a Must
- Batter-Up - Join PTSA
- Blast Into the Future with PTSA
- It's Time to Lend a Helping Hand
- Explore the Depths of PTSA! Become a Member of Our School!

Adapted from California PTA Website
Beth Brown
Kansas PTA Membership Chairman

Kansas PTA 2008-2009 Membership Theme!
“Keys to Success”
Parents, Teachers & Staff, Students, Community
We ALL hold a key to success, use your key and JOIN PTA!

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA Membership Chairman

September will be proclaimed PTA Membership Enrollment Month when Governor Sebelius signs our proclamation. A copy will be posted on the Kansas PTA website.
2008 PTA Back-to-School Kit

The Back-to-School season is the best time to promote PTA and prepare for a successful year. Parents are excited about the opportunities the new school year brings for their children, and they haven’t yet gotten caught up in the whirl of school activities. Take this opportunity to invite parents and other family members to join your PTA and get involved in promoting every student’s success.

We received information from National PTA that the Back to School Kits have been mailed and most should have arrived by now. If you have not received your Back to School Kit from National PTA please contact the Kansas PTA State office ASAP by email to kansaspta@gmail.com or by phone 785-234-5782.

Below are several key items from the 2008 PTA Back-to-School Kit.


PTA Local Leader’s Calendar – program and event suggestions for each month of the year, and customizable calendar pages to help you and your leadership team to stay on track.

PTA Parent’s Calendar – parenting tips plus customizable calendar pages for promoting activities to help keep your community members informed and involved.

PTA Votes! 2008 Election Guide – suggestions on how to make educated choices and get involved during the election season, including information about the National Student/Parent Mock Election.

PTA Goes to work – tools to help prepare young people for the hot careers of the 21st century.

Membership Brochures—resources to help you inform parents and school leaders why they should be part of PTA.

Membership Marketing Templates and Tools—customizable materials to help you recruit and retain members during PTA Membership Month (September), the January Membership Campaign and year around.

Get MORE Involved! Men Organized to Raise Engagement Brochure—information about PTA’s new coalition to promote greater male involvement in children’s intellectual, physical, and social development.

Clorox, a Proud National Sponsor of PTA, sponsors the 2008 PTA Back-to-School Kit.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services

PTA Start the Art Week

Join us the second week of October to embrace, celebrate, and advocate for the arts. PTA believes that all children deserve a quality arts education. An arts education enhances a student’s intellectual, personal and social development.

PTA Start the Art Week, October 6–10, 2008, is an opportunity to provide your school’s students with arts experiences. It’s also an ideal time to inform families of the benefits of arts education and gain the support of the community. Show your PTA’s commitment to arts education by observing PTA Start the Art Week with a one-day event or a weeklong celebration.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services
Mock Elections Excellent Way for Students to Learn about Advocacy

This year the National PTA became a partner in the National Student/Parent Mock Election program, which is the nation’s oldest, largest, and most successful voter education project. We hope Kansas PTA units will encourage their schools to set up mock elections, so their students will learn about the democratic process by casting votes in national and state races in this non-partisan, nonprofit voter education program. This year’s 2008 Mock Election will take place October 30th.

To have your PTA’s school participate, check out the National Student/Parent Mock Election website at http://www.nationalmockelection.org/index.html where you will find out how to gain approval and support from your school superintendent or principal, and many ideas on how to plan and coordinate the event. The NSPME information includes teacher lesson plans and activities for all grades and even information on how to involve your local broadcast station. The National Association of Broadcasters Education Foundation is also a partner in the program.

The NSPME Coordinator for the state of Kansas is Deb Brown, and your school may enroll and ask questions of her at icbrownd@smd.org or 913-993-8664. She can explain the process of obtaining an official ballot for your district and how to report your results for the major state and national races by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, October 30th, so that the votes may be tabulated by students at the Kansas Election Headquarters and the outcomes posted after 5:00 p.m.

Over 4 million students, parents and teachers participated in the 2004 Mock Election of the last presidential election year. NSPME researchers have discovered that those who participated in elections at an early age were far more likely to be involved as adults than those who did not. In the words of Jan Harp Domene, PTA national president, “By voting on both candidates and contemporary issues, the project initiates an important discussion on the responsibility and power we all have as citizens.”

Nancy Niles Lusk
Kansas PTA State Legislative Chair

Standing Rules Reminders

Another school year is starting and yet it seems like just yesterday school was letting out for the summer. With that in mind, as you are going through your officer materials make sure you have the Uniform Unit Bylaws and your Standing Rules ready for the new year. Just a couple of reminders regarding these valuable documents: 1) Be sure that all officers have a copy of the Uniform Unit Bylaws and Standing Rules for their records. 2) Check with your school secretary to see if copies of these documents are on file. If not, be sure to provide a copy.

If your unit has not had the opportunity to put Standing Rules together, here are some thoughts when it comes to this process: 1) Standing Rules must not be in conflict with the Uniform Unit Bylaws, nor Kansas or National PTA Bylaws. 2) There are no set number of rules when putting together this document. Make it a useable document for your unit. 3) And finally, once your Standing Rules are completed, present them to your membership for final approval.

If at any time, you have questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Lauri DeNooy
Kansas PTA Bylaws Review Chairman
Citizenship and Reflections Programs
Plan NOW for your school to participate!

Detailed information about these important programs was sent to each unit President with the Summer Packet that was sent upon receipt of unit officer names. Due to changes made by National PTA, Kansas PTA has changed the timeframe for these two programs, Reflections deadlines are in the fall, before winter break, and Citizenship deadlines are in January, after winter break. Please note you may run these programs at the local level at any time as long as you are able to get the entries to your Council/Region by the deadline.

The 2007 – 2008 Reflections Program theme is –

“WOW....”

The Reflections Program is for Pre-K through 12th grades.

Important Deadlines are:
Deadline: Tuesday, October 7, 2008 Local unit chairman
Deadline: Tuesday, October 21, 2008 Council President**
Deadline: Tuesday, November 4, 2008 Region Vice President
Deadline: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 State chairman

** If your unit does not belong to a Council – forward directly to your Region Vice President.

The 2008 - 2009 Citizenship Program theme is –

“To Be A Good Citizen Means To....”

The Citizenship program is for 5th through 9th grades.

Important Deadlines are:
Deadline: Tuesday, January 6, 2009 Local unit chairperson
Deadline: Tuesday, January 20, 2009 Council President**
Deadline: Tuesday, January 27, 2009 Region Vice President
Deadline: Tuesday, February 10, 2009 State chairperson

** If your unit does not belong to a Council – forward directly to your Region Vice President.

Note – National PTA has a section to indicate if your unit’s dues have been received. You must be a unit in good standing! Don’t disappoint a child – make sure your unit is in good standing!

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA VP of Member Services
Lights On Afterschool is celebrated nationwide to call attention to the importance of afterschool programs for America’s children, families and communities.

In America today, 1 in 4 youth -- 14.3 million children – are alone and unsupervised after school. Afterschool programs keep kids safe, help working families and inspire learning. They provide opportunities to help young people develop into successful adults.

Lights On Afterschool was launched in October 2000 with celebrations in more than 1,200 communities nationwide. The event grew in 2001 to more than 3,600 events, and more than 7,500 in 2006. This October, 1 million Americans will celebrate Lights On Afterschool!

Lights On Afterschool is a project of the Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring that all children have access to quality, affordable afterschool programs. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has served as Chair of Lights On Afterschool since 2001.

For more information – www.afterschoolalliance.org

Red Ribbon Week 2008
October 18-24

Red Ribbon is designed to be an awareness campaign which gets information to the general public about the dangers of drug abuse.

- Red Ribbon is designed to be an experiential learning lesson for children and adults.

- Red Ribbon is designed to get people talking with other people and working on activities that will help rebuild a sense of community and common purpose.

- Red Ribbon is designed to help parents and schools deliver an effective drug prevention curriculum.

- Red Ribbon is designed to create CRITICAL MASS, which is necessary to reduce destructive social norms/behaviors and promote positive social norms/behaviors.

- Red Ribbon is designed to be positive and fun—two things necessary to maintain good mental health.

Create a one day event or week long events. Parents, Teachers, Students, bring them together to celebrate and inform others on being drug free and staying drug free.

For ideas and suggestions got to - http://www.drugsrdumb.com/activities.html
2009 Kansas State PTA Convention

Be Part of A PTA Empowering Experience!

Did you know that Kansas PTA hosts an informative and empowering state convention to help PTA leaders work effectively on the behalf of all children, youth and their families?

The 95th annual convention will be held in Lawrence at the Lawrence Holiday Inn & Convention Center April 24th through the 26th. There will be a special convention kick-off party on Friday April 24th that you won’t want to miss. There will be time to visit with old friends and make new ones.

During the General Meetings you will have the chance to hear exciting keynote speakers, share in recognizing individual unit achievements in membership, celebrate special PTA leaders and conduct the business of Kansas PTA. Since this is an election year the 2009 convention will also give you the opportunity to vote on future leadership for Kansas PTA!

We have 5 sessions of workshops with a wide variety of workshops being offered to make your convention experience meaningful and memorable! Choose the workshops that will help you as a PTA member, leader and voice for the children of Kansas.

See the next column for exciting information about the exhibitors! Then don’t forget the Silent Auction and PTA Store – I’m sure you will find just that special something for home or school. Participants will return home with new ideas, improved skills and recharged energy. Convention is an excellent PTA investment, the ultimate leadership experience.

Check out our web site (www.kansas-pta.org) for updates. Registration packets will be mailed in early January. Plan now to attend the 2009 convention. Make sure you have a convention line item in your PTA budget. These are allowable expenses for your PTA.

Make Plans to attend the 95th Annual Kansas PTA State Convention April 24 – 26, 2009, Lawrence Holiday Inn & Convention Center – 200 McDonald Dr., Lawrence, KS

Patty Jurich
Kansas PTA Secretary and 2009 Convention Chairman

Speed Vending and Convention Bingo

After surveying past exhibitors and delegates, Kansas PTA is trying some new things at the 2009 Convention in Lawrence, April 24-26. Have you heard of speed dating, well Kansas PTA is having speed vending. During lunch on Saturday, there will be twenty exhibitors, one at each table of delegates. The exhibitors will be given two minutes to “pitch” their product, service, or program. At the end of the two minutes the exhibitors will rotate to another table and this will continue until each exhibitor has given their two-minute “pitch” at all twenty tables. Immediately following the lunch, there is a two-hour block where half of the delegates will go to the exhibit hall and the other half of the delegates will attend a workshop. After an hour the delegates will switch and the ones that were at the exhibit hall will now go to a workshop and the delegates that attended a workshop first will go to the exhibit hall. The workshops presented during the first hour will be repeated during the second hour. Kansas PTA feels this gives delegates and exhibitors more time to interact and by first letting the exhibitors “pitch” their product, service, or program, the delegates can then get more information from the specific exhibitors of their choice.

Kansas PTA also has made some changes to the bingo that delegates participate in at convention. First, the name has changed from Exhibitor Bingo to Convention Bingo. This change is because PTA is all about networking, so, not only will delegates have the opportunity to have exhibitors sign their bingo card but there will be spaces that challenge the delegates to find people form different areas of the state and have them sign. Example, it might say find someone from the Salina area, so you would go talk to people and find someone from the Salina area and have them sign your card.

Hopefully, these changes will bring more opportunity for finding more services and programs for your PTA as well as more networking possibilities with people from around the state.

Hope to see you in Lawrence!

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA Exhibits Chairman
Parent Leadership Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

The Annual Parent Leadership Conference will be held October 24th and 25th at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka, Kansas.

If you would like to learn how to become more involved in your children’s education or how to become an effective advocate for all children, please join us! Sessions will include topics such as:

- Communicating with School Leaders
- Parents as Leaders
- Children with Special Needs
- Helping Families Talk about Self-Esteem, Sex, and Peer Pressure and more…….

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this parent focused conference!

- Registration and meals are FREE to conference participants!
- Onsite child care is FREE to conference participants!
- Hotel room charges are FREE to parents who live outside the Topeka area.

Most sessions translated into Spanish.

Deadline for registration is October 10th

REGISTER NOW! www.kpirc.org Visit the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center’s (KPIRC) website to check out the conference brochure.

Questions? Call the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) Toll Free at 1-866-711-6711 or 785-783-2975.

Jane Groff
Director
Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC)

Family Day—a day to eat dinner with your children is September 22, 2008

Sitting together at the family dinner table may seem a little less common with the busy lives people lead these days. However, did you know that a family meal together helps cultivate an environment where parents can have a conversation with their children? Research done by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University consistently finds that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs.

Kansas Family Partnership is implementing the Family Day campaign to help educate families and create awareness that by having regular conversations between parents/guardians, those conversations serve as a prevention tool to help safeguard Kansas youth. Family Day—A day to eat dinner with your children™ is a nationwide initiative to show that parental engagement is the single most potent weapon in preventing substance use and abuse among youth. Family Day is celebrated the fourth Monday of each September, making this year’s celebration September 22, 2008.

Family Day is not just for families. Kansas Family Partnership is helping to encourage businesses, faith communities, law enforcement, education centers/pre-schools and schools as well as community groups to engage in Family Day activities and celebrate Family Day not just one day a year, but every day.

Information regarding Family Day is available online at http://www.kansasfamily.com/GetInvolved-FamilyDay.cfm where there are downloadable materials or ideas on how you can celebrate Family Day. You may also contact Kansas Family Partnership at (800) 206-7231. Local regional prevention centers and community coalitions, as well as K-State Research and Extension offices are helping to spread the word as well.

As September 22 approaches, think of ways you can schedule more family time at the dinner table to talk about what’s going on in your child’s world. After all, what your child really wants at the dinner table is you!

Keri Renner
Director of Communications and Statewide Networker
Kansas Family Partnership, Inc.
Kansas PTA Board Roster

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Parent Involvement ................................. Shirlyn Richardson .......................... 2709 N. 13th Street, Kansas City, KS 66104 ............................................ 913-371-4309
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Website .................................................... Robert DeNooy .................................. 12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS 66215 ............................................ 913-548-2254

Consultants / Committee Appointments

Immediate Past President .................. Laura Kaiser ........................................... 5222 W. 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66207 ............................................ 913-341-3078
*Nominating & Leadership Dev........ Ernie Goerend ........................................... 576 South Delaware Ave., Salina, KS 67401 ............................................ 785-825-6503
*Parliamentarian ................................. Vacant ..................................................... 134 N. 71st, Kansas City, KS 66111 ............................................ 913-441-0110
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*Not a board position.

This issue of the Bulletin is available on our website. Emails are available on the website.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

KANSAS PTA BULLETIN

September-October 2008

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Debbie Lawson President-Elect
Jackie Waters Vice President of Advocacy
Tammy Bartels Vice President of Extension Services
Beth Brown Vice President of Member Services
Patty Jurich Secretary
Sharon Rakos Treasurer

IMPORTANT DATES

Legislation Training
Saturday, October 11, 2008
Topeka, Kansas

Kansas State PTA Convention
April 24—26, 2009
Lawrence, Kansas