2007 Kansas PTA Legislative Training Conference

October 6, 2007
(Kearse date)
KNEA Building
715 SW 10th St.
Topeka, KS
(New location this year)

Tentative Agenda:
9:30-10:00 Registration
10:00-11:45 Workshops every 30 minutes
11:45-12:15 Box Lunch
12:15-2:00 Conference Speakers

Registration Fees:
$15.00 for PTA members

At the Training Conference you will:
* Receive updates on Federal and State Legislative issues
* Learn more about advocacy from National PTA
* Learn about being an advocate
* Learn how to make a difference for ALL children in Kansas

Make plans now to attend!
PTA members are encouraged to bring a friend.
Together we can make a difference and impact what is happening in Kansas!

Registration materials were mailed the week of August 13th.
Please contact Jackie Waters if you did not receive a packet.

Kansas PTA 2007-2008 Membership Theme!

“Together We Can…..”

Membership – TOGETHER we can build and strengthen our PTA’s

Advocacy – Together WE can support the education of our children.

Teamwork – Together we CAN make a difference.
Staying Connected

Jan Harp Domene, National PTA President, spoke of connections in her address to the delegates at National Convention this past June. We are all connected to one another and using these connections make the "jobs" we do easier and more efficient. Your connection to the State Board of Managers is through your Region Vice President. You may contact the state office for your representative information. Plus you are always welcome to share your thoughts with me.

There are exciting things happening in Kansas PTA – Uniform Unit Bylaws are among the most exciting for units. The Kansas PTA Board of Managers voted at the July board meeting to adopt uniform bylaws for each unit. This means that as a unit you will no longer need to update your bylaws. For those of you who have went through this process you know what a time saver this will be. You will have more time to present programs for the children and parents of your school.

We have a new employee in the State Office. Sherrelyn Smith joined our staff as Executive Director of Kansas PTA on August 1st. Her primary responsibilities will be to raise non-dues revenue and represent Kansas PTA with our collaborative organizations. She will also be “connecting” with the units as she wants to know her “members”. She comes to us from Blue Valley NEA and the classroom before that, so she has a background in education. We are very excited to have her join us and hope that you will join us in welcoming her.

There is much information contained in this Bulletin to help you “get a good start to the school year”. Along with this, the Summer Packet that was sent last May, the Back to School Kit that National PTA shipped in July and the Legislative Invitation with the Citizenship and Reflections information – you have the resources! Go forth and have a wonderful year!

Jan Long
Kansas PTA President

Connecting to the Lifeblood of PTA... You!

You are the lifeblood of PTA. Yes, you. The mom who makes sure her child has a healthy breakfast before school. The father who plays catch with his child in the park. The parents who participate in school events. The PTA president who makes membership a priority.

All of you together make up the millions of members who are the lifeblood of PTA and work tirelessly to make a positive impact on the life of as many children as possible across the country. Our membership gives PTA the force it needs to help every child succeed.

As your new national president, I will see to it that we connect to our membership, and I urge you to help strengthen it. We will continue supporting great PTA programs and look at ways to help them positively connect to and affect families everywhere. We will get to know our membership, what they need from us, and provide relevant resources that apply to today’s parent.

Millions of other parents, and most importantly children, are not benefiting from the force of our lifeblood. We promise to connect to you ... and we need you to connect to them. Make the connection with other parents so that they too can help their child and the PTA succeed. Why? Because the facts don’t lie. Parent involvement equals student achievement, which, in turn, leads to a better world for future generations. As a mother and grandmother, this is as important to me as it is to all of you.

I encourage you to write to me at jdomene@pta.org. Tell me what’s important to you, what changes you would like to see, how we can connect with you better, how you are connecting to other parents, and how we can help. Together, we can create a more resounding voice nationwide, help all children, and create a better world for them.

Jan Harp Domene
PTA National President
STATE OF KANSAS

PROCLAMATION
BY THE
GOVERNOR

TO THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS, GREETINGS:

WHEREAS, The Kansas PTA has a long tradition of seeking the highest possible education advantages for all children and youth, enabling them to realize their full potential; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas PTA assists parents in developing the skills they need to protect and raise healthy children, encourages parents and public civic involvement in public schools in our community, and speaks on behalf of children and schools in communities, organizations, and before public governing bodies; and

WHEREAS, During the month of September special activities will be held to expand the membership of the Kansas PTA, promote parent involvement, and broaden its base of support to become a stronger and more effective voice for children and education; and

WHEREAS, it is the role of the Kansas PTA to encourage parent involvement, as essential part of the PTA mission, by promoting an environment in which parents are valued as primary influences in their children’s lives essential partners in their children’s education and development:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATHLEEN SEBELIUS, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF KANSAS, do hereby proclaim September 2007, as

PTA Membership Enrollment Month

in Kansas and encourage everyone who cares about the well-being of Kansas’ children to join the PTA and become an advocate for children.

Done. At the Capitol in Topeka
Under the Great Seal of
The State this 1st of
August, A.D. 2007

BY THE GOVERNOR:

Kathleen Sebelius

Secretary of State

Brad Bryant
Assistant Secretary of State
Create a Connection

In a nutshell, that’s what PTA is all about. If you take away the membership drives, the fundraisers, the social events and the meetings, PTA is about making connections. One of your State Board’s Strategic Initiatives for the following year is to increase and retain our membership. We are confident if we increase our connections with Kansas communities, families and schools, we will dramatically increase our membership.

Through effective Marketing and Public Relations, it’s easy to create connections. Following are some easy tools to use:

- Promote events using monument signs at your school
- Banners
- Newsletters / flyers
- Phone and e-mail blasts
- Public address systems via morning announcements or at other school functions
- Customized stamps – “Skate tonight” on each child’s hand before going home
- Create a connection with a local reporter – contact them PRIOR to event in addition to afterwards.
- Submit information regarding upcoming activities / events to the “calendar/upcoming events” section of your paper.

Hey Did You Know?

It is a good idea to annually review your insurance policy. Here are some things to look for during your review.

Make sure your insurer has an up to date list of all your PTA activities and fund raisers. Remove any discontinued activities and fund raisers. List anyone who touches the PTA money on your policy (treasurer, membership chairperson, counters). Ask for an endorsement to include volunteers and PTA members. If necessary, check if you have a clause that covers leased equipment.

It is a good practice to contact your PTA insurance company every year to establish contacts and review the Loss Control Guide for relevance and changes.

Questions and comments may be directed to Sharon Rakos
Kansas PTA Treasurer
913-708-5501 or srakos@kc.rr.com

SCHIP

You are looking at the acronym SCHIP and you are wondering what it means. SCHIP stands for the State Children’s Health Insurance Program. It is a state federal partnership created ten years ago that covers 6.6 million children from low income families. These families are not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid. If Congress does not act soon, the program will expire.

The Children’s Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act (HR 976) provides $35 billion in increased funding over five years. This will be accomplished through a 61 cent cigarette tax increase. There are around 9 million children in the United States that are without health insurance. It is estimated that about two-thirds of them are not enrolled in SCHIP. If the funding is not increased, approximately 800,000 children would lose coverage.

President George W. Bush has threatened to veto the legislation. Congress may be forced to override a presidential veto.

To learn more about SCHIP, attend the Kansas PTA Legislative Training Conference on October 6, 2007. There will be a workshop on it and many more issues facing the welfare of our state’s children.

Seven Musts for PTA Leaders

1. Be aware
2. Always be prepared
3. Involve others
4. Communicate
5. Maintain a positive attitude
6. Be enthusiastic!
7. Give’em their money’s worth
Think your **PTA** works hard? **Prove it!**

**Apply for a PTA Unit Achievement Award!**

To qualify your PTA must meet all four of the following requirements:

- Membership – 5% increase or one member per student
- Parent Involvement – Conduct at least one program for parents to be involved in the school.
- School/Student Success – Conduct at least one program to increase awareness of issues that affect school/student success.
- Participate in State convention or state-sponsored event.

**Applications are in your back-to-school kit and online at**

[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

**Deadline to apply: March 14, 2008**

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**PTA Start the Art Week: Plan to Celebrate**

PTA Start the Art Week is October 8–12, and throughout your state, PTAs are making plans to celebrate and advocate for the arts. With the **PTA Start the Art Toolkit now available online**, and being mailed to local units in the next couple weeks, local units’ planning will be kicking into high gear.

What is your state PTA doing to celebrate the week? Here are a few ideas:

- Host a press conference to educate your state about the importance of arts education for all students. Invite decision makers.
- Inform arts organizations, arts agencies, universities, and museums about PTA Start the Art Week. Encourage them to support planned events in their communities.
- Develop a letter-writing campaign to reach state policy makers or school boards, or coordinate a lobbying event at the state capitol.
- Send state PTA representatives to local Start the Art events, or plan an event of your own to give students a quality arts experience. Invite the media.

Be a resource for local units. Provide arts advocacy tools, as well as information about statewide arts events and programs.

Remember, your support for the arts can have a lifelong impact on students’ lives.

PTA Start the Art Week 2007 and the PTA Start the Art Toolkit are sponsored by Target.
MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

These tips and tricks have been collected from PTAs over many years. They may inspire you, make you laugh or scratch your head. Keep the doors open to new and unusual ideas!

1. When you leave a PTA school, take PTA to your next school. If your new school doesn’t have a PTA contact the state office for help in starting one.

2. Ask your principal to challenge the parents or staff to 100% participation by promising something fun. One principal moved their desk to the roof for the day, and another shaved his beard off! Both were so outrageous that the local press covered the story!

3. Set your membership goal and then cut that number of puzzle pieces from a picture of the school. Keep adding a piece for each member until the puzzle is completed. (“Together We Can”)

4. Councils: Provide local units with a “traveling” membership exhibit illustrating what the PTA does — local, council, state and national.

5. For those who say they don’t have time, ask them to sign a “CALL ME ONCE” sheet. Ask parents to volunteer just once during the year. They can relax about the time commitment and still be part of PTA. Being called for help for only a few hours one time seems manageable for even the busiest person.

6. Ask local realtors to include a welcome from PTA to new buyers with children.

7. Set up a PTA sponsored homework hotline.

8. Challenge each existing member to sell just one additional membership. The result is a 100% membership increase. (“Together We Can”)

9. Have a prize drawing at each PTA meeting for anyone bringing two additional people to the meeting. First timers may like what they see and wish to join!

10. Councils: Ask local businesses to donate funding for a President’s Award to each PTA with 100% membership or to each PTA with a significant increase from the previous year.

11. Try a “30 Day Wonder” — Can you get 30 new members in 30 days?

12. High Schools and Middle/Junior High Schools can contact the state office about becoming a PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association).

13. Send birthday greetings to PTA members.

14. Don’t overlook any potential members. All members of the community have a stake in the future of all children. Tell them how they can help by joining PTA!

Adapted from the Washington State PTA
Beth Brown
Kansas PTA Membership Chair

OMDR NEWS

Kansas PTA has been using OMDR (Online Membership Data Reporting) for two years now. This database is a tool that helps PTAs track and communicate with their members, and allows State and National PTA to serve our members better. As a local PTA in Kansas, your participation is necessary to make this a success. Some of the many benefits to OMDR are: makes it easier for your PTA to maintain records and communicate with your members, it is web-accessible, password protected, and easy to use. The Unit President decides who can have access to the system to enter membership lists. On OMDR you can upload your membership list to National PTA, print membership lists, print your membership cards, and email your members. Your Unit President needs to contact me to get their member ID number to start. A letter was sent mid-August to all unit presidents providing them with their access information. If you did not receive that you can contact Marie by email at mawrie@everestkc.net or by phone at 913-422-7841. I am looking forward to getting more KS Units on the OMDR System.

Marie Thomas
Kansas PTA OMDR Chair
CALLING ALL MEMBERS!!!!!!!!!

Kansas PTA is looking for a few good members to join our membership committee. Members from all over Kansas are needed. Qualifications – must have energy, enthusiasm, and a passion to make PTA better for all children. Everyone need apply! Call or email Beth Brown, Kansas PTA Membership Chair at (913) 328-0448 and bbrown70@hotmail.com.

SEAT BELT LAWS UPDATED

Fewer teenagers will die in car crashes when they comply with a new law mandating seat belt use. The law will allow officers to stop and ticket occupants 17 and under who are not wearing seat belts. Buckle up and encourage your children to do likewise.

Denise Stultz
Kansas PTA Health & Wellness Chairman

KS PTA ACRONYMS LIST

AMBER Alerts .................... America’s Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response
BSP .......................................................... Building Successful Partnerships
CIS-K ..................................................... Communities in School - Kansas
EC ......................................................... Executive Committee - comprised of the 7 elected officers
EC ......................................................... Extension Committee
ED ......................................................... Executive Director
EMSC ......................... Emergency Medical Services for Children– collaborative organization
ESEA ....................................................... Elementary/Secondary Education Act
IDEA ....................................................... Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
KAC ....................................................... Kansas Action for Children – collaborative organization
KASB ..................................................... Kansas Association of School Boards
KEN ..................................................... Kansas Enrichment Network – collaborative organization
KLFA ................................................. Kansas Learning First Alliance – collaborative organization
KNEA .................................................. Kansas National Education Association
KPIRC ............................................ Kansas Parent Information Resource Centers
KSDE .................................................. Kansas State Department of Education
KSBE .................................................. Kansas State Board of Education
NEA .................................................... National Education Association
NCLB .................................................. No Child Left Behind
NCMEC ............................................ National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
NPTA .................................................... National PTA
OA ...................................................... Office Advisory – comprised of the 7 elected officers
OMDR .............................................. Online Membership and Data Reporting System
PSA ..................................................... Public Service Announcement
PTA ...................................................... Parent Teacher Association
PTSA .................................................. Parent Teacher Student Association
RVP .................................................... Region Vice President
SCHIP ................................................ State Children’s Health Insurance Program
TCBI ........................ Training Capacity Building Initiative – Training Program National PTA
YAC ...................................................... Youth Advisory Committee
Key PTA Leaders are Trained PTA Leaders

The Keys to Leadership program is designed to encourage training and leadership development for all Kansas PTA members. By developing strong leaders, we give strength to the PTA. We also help develop our members to their full potential. Level II has been designed to recognize members who have achieved Level I and continue to enhance and develop their leadership skills. Points are given for each position. Forms need to be turned in 30 days prior to Convention. Awards will be presented at the State Convention. Plan to attend!

How can I get started?
♦ Email Jill Molina, Kansas PTA Leadership Chairman, for a form or to answer any questions at sonic1us@yahoo.com
♦ Forms need to be validated by a state board member, workshop facilitator or unit president.
♦ Points must be earned within a two year time period from the start date.

At the 2007 Kansas State Convention in Kansas City these PTA members received the Keys to Leadership Award:

**Level 1**
- Dina Fabac Oak Grove
- Paula Fein-Falscroft Stony Point North Elementary
- Carol Mellott Riverview Elementary
- Jill Molina East Antioch Elementary
- MeShawn Morse Nelson Elementary

**Level 2**
- Sheila Bunnell Turner Council
- Jackie Waters Nelson Elementary

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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KS PTA Website: www.ptasonline.org/kspta
National PTA Website: 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.
National 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 ks_office@pta.org or by phone 785-234-5782.

The 2007 PTA Back-to-School Kit gives you

♦ The tools you need to plan and run your fall membership drive.
♦ Resources to help you plan programs throughout the year that meet the needs and interests of your community
♦ Leadership resources to help you and your committee chairs run an effective unit

Following are a few of the key items in your kit:

PTA Parent’s Calendar—Program and event suggestions for each month of the year, and customizable calendar pages to help you keep community members informed of upcoming activities.

PTA Grassroots Advocacy Toolkit—Materials to educate PTA members about how they can make their voices heard on issues that affect children and education.

100 Ways to Help Your Child and School Succeed—An informational brochure that gives parents 100 ways they can support their children’s education.

National Standards for Family-School Partnerships—What parents, schools, and communities can do together to support student success.

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. (Including the Parent’s Calendar)

2007–2008 PTA Unit Achievement Award application—An opportunity for your PTA to receive recognition for its accomplishments.

2007-2008 PTA Quick-Reference Guides (President's, Membership, Programs, and Money Matters)—These updated and easy-to-use primers for your PTA’s leaders.

PTA National Strategic Plan 2007–2010—The strategic plan that will guide PTA’s work over the next three years.

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.
**ALCOHOL USE DATA**

New data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration shows that 10% of children by age 12, 50% of children by age 15, and 75% of children by age 18 have consumed alcohol. Being a responsible parent means talking to your children about waiting to drink alcohol until they have reached the legal age of 21. It also means not hosting drinking in your household. Recently, a Virginia mother was sentenced to 27 months in jail for hosting a party and serving alcohol to underage teens at the request of her teenage sons.

Denise Stultz
Kansas PTA Health & Wellness Chairman

**BSP - BUILDING SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS**

What is it, and why do I want to know about it?

Building Successful Partnerships (BSP) is a program the National PTA has developed, of which parent involvement is the primary focus. There are PTA leaders trained in every state and prepared to make presentations to PTA units, school boards, state boards, and education, teacher preparation colleges and community groups. The point is that providing a successful educational experience for all children requires the participation of everyone.

The PTA definition of parent involvement is the participation of parents in every facet of children’s education and development, which includes:

- Two-way and meaningful communication between home and school
- Serving as children’s primary educators
- Participating in volunteer work
- Sharing responsibility with the schools in decision making about children
- Collaborating with community and organizations to reflect the school’s aspiration for all children.

Research tells us that when parents are involved students tend to have higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates. They have better school attendance, increased motivation and better self-esteem. Schools see lower rates of suspension. They notice decreased use of drugs and alcohol. There are fewer instances of behavior problems. Statistics also show greater enrollment rates in post secondary education. (Research of Joyce Epstein and Anne Henderson related in: A Guide for Developing Quality Parent and Family Involvement Program, National education Service)

You can learn more about ways to help parents in your school become more involved, and ways for them to help their children at home. You can also learn how to set up a team in your school to develop your own parent involvement policy.

Contact your Parent Involvement Chair, Shirlyn Richardson at 913-371-4309 for more information, or to schedule a trained Board member to give a presentation at your school.

Shirlyn Richardson
Kansas PTA Parent Involvement Chair
The 990-N - BE NOT AFRAID

By now, you should have received an educational letter from the IRS (mailings started in July 2007) regarding the new e-Postcard (Form 990-N).

BE NOT AFRAID – You are not alone – TOGETHER WE CAN!

THE POSITIVES
The focus of 990-N is informational. The 990-N form will ask for the organization's name, mailing address, website, employer ID, principal officer, tax period and a statement that your annual gross receipts are still normally $25,000 or less.

This requirement by the Pension Protection Act, is trying to increase accountability, enhance transparency and minimize compliance vs. non-compliance burdens, in tax exempt organizations such as the PTA. In short, donors who may want to contribute to PTA, have assurance that our information is current via the 990s.

So, beginning in 2008, small tax-exempt organizations that previously were not required to file returns (gross receipts of $25,000 or less) may be required to file an annual electronic notice form 990-N. Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations not Required To File Form 990 or 990-EZ. This filing requirement applies to tax periods beginning after December 31, 2006. The e-Postcard will be due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your tax period. I.e. tax ends on Dec. 31, 2007, the e-Postcard is due May 15th, 2008.

The IRS is developing an electronic filing system (there will be no paper form) for the e-Postcard and will publicize filing procedures when the system is completed and ready for use. The IRS plans to deliver a simple internet based process for filing the e-Postcard. Therefore, entities without a computer can go to places such as their local library to file the e-Postcard. Software will not need to be purchased because the system will be internet based.

THE NEGATIVE
The Pension Protection Act requires the IRS to revoke your non-exempt status if you fail to file for 3 consecutive years. Therefore, organizations that do not file the e-Postcard (Form 990-N), or an information return Form 990 or 990-EZ for three consecutive years, will have their tax-exempt status revoked as of the filing due date of the third year.

Here are some helpful ways to stay tax exempt and up to date on filing requirements.

If you think the IRS may have an incorrect address, file a Form 8822 Change of Address with the IRS. You will need to complete Parts II and III. To get a form 8822 go to www.irs.gov/eo.

Sign up for Exempt Organization EO Update, a regular e-mail newsletter that highlights new information posted on the charities pagers of the irs.gov. To subscribe go to www.irs.gov/eo and click on “EO Newsletter”.

STILL PERPLEXED???……then check out www.stayexempt.org. This site has several on-line workshops that help you and your organization stay tax exempt. In 60 minutes, the site can teach you to prepare an “error free” 990.

If you have questions, concerns or have not received your IRS informational letter, please call me at 913-766-0311.

Sharon Rakos
Kansas PTA Treasurer

EXTRA, EXTRA READ ALL ABOUT IT!!

Kansas PTA is offering an incentive for all units that increase their membership 5% by January 31, 2008. Each unit that achieves this increase will be entered into a drawing for one (1) of three (3) FREE convention registrations (does not include meals or hotel expenses) or one (1) of three (3) $25 gift certificates to the PTA Store at convention in Salina. Also, each registrant to convention from qualifying units will have a “special” ribbon to attach to their name badge in recognition of their unit’s achievement. So use those resources, get those ideas flowing and the memberships will start rolling in.

Beth Brown
Kansas PTA Membership Chair
Make plans to attend the
94th Annual Kansas PTA State Convention
April 18 – 20, 2008
Holiday Inn, Salina, KS

Kansas PTA – TOGETHER WE CAN

Together We Can ……..
Empower Our Students, Parents, Schools and Communities
Start a Kindness Campaign in our Schools to benefit every student
Make a difference!

The 94th Annual State PTA Convention will be held in Salina, KS at the Holiday Inn Friday, April 18th thru Sunday, April 20th. Join PTA members from across our state for a weekend of excellent training, visiting with old and new friends and hearing wonderful speakers at our general meetings.

Rachel Scott was a beautiful young woman who believed that everyone should be treated with respect and kindness. Rachel Scott believed that a chain of kindness could be started in our schools and everyone would reap the benefits. Rachel Scott was the first person shot in the Columbine School shootings. A member of Rachel’s family will attend our convention as a keynote speaker for one of our general meetings. This is an extremely powerful presentation that everyone should hear. This is an experience you won’t want to miss!

We will kick off Friday evening with the first timers welcome, dinner with a special guest and visiting with new and old friends. Saturday morning we will start with the hospitality suite, head to workshops that are guaranteed to be informative, and over lunch have the first of our three general meetings. You will also be able to visit the exhibitors hall with a wide variety of programs for your local unit, fund raising ideas and educational information.

Two favorites at convention --- the Silent Auction and the PTA Store --- will be open for you to browse and find the perfect item to take home.

Registration packets will be mailed in early January. Check the website (www.ptasonline.org/kspta) for updates. Make sure you have a line item in your PTA budget to attend as these are allowable expenses for your PTA. Plan now to attend!!

Debbie Lawson
President Elect and 2008 Convention Chairman
As we are beginning school year, the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) has several things we want you to consider:

1. **NCLB and Choice.** Concerning federal requirements for parent involvement under No Child Left Behind – this is the critical year for many Kansas schools that did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) the previous year. The law states that if Title I schools do not make AYP for two consecutive years, then all parents in that particular school must be given the option of choice to transfer their child to another school in the district. The law also states that a child does not have to come from a low-income family to take part in public school choice. If choice options are not available in small school districts, then supplemental education services (e.g., options for tutoring outside of the regular school day) may be made available to those children. If presented with a choice option, however, parents need to know that choosing to “stay put” is exercising choice. Your schools will be notified later this summer regarding the school’s status in meeting state academic standards and at that time, are required under NCLB to notify you. To learn more about choice and your parent options under NCLB, please visit the KPIRC website – www.kpirc.org – and click on the “New Federal Requirements under NCLB” and then “Parent Choice.” To learn the current status of your school, click on the “Accountability” webpage and then the KSDE website. You may also call the KPIRC office at 866 711-6711 (toll free) for more information.

2. **Recruitment of New PTA Members and Leaders.** Are you aware that there is a group of kindergarten parents in many of your communities that are ready to get involved – but only need to be encouraged and welcomed into the PTA fold? If your school is in one of the 86 counties currently served by Head Start, there is a high likelihood that you have parents whose children are (or were) enrolled in Head Start. One thing you may not realize is that many of these parents have served on their local Head Start Policy Councils which means they have received extensive training in parent leadership and advocacy skills and have been involved for several years in governing and decision-making that impact all children in their Head Start programs. The challenge to you now is:

- how do you reach out to and welcome these parents into your PTA?
- how do you take advantage of the leadership and advocacy skills these parents have?
- how do you facilitate their continued enthusiasm for parent involvement and leadership?

With the important job of PTA parents in being advocates and spearheading parent involvement in your schools we can’t afford to loose any parent. To find out who this ready group of parent leaders are, go to the Kansas Head Start Association webpage – www.ksheadstart.org and click on “Member Programs” and the “Map of Programs in Kansas”. When you locate your county, you will find the name and telephone number of the Head Start Program Director, who can assist you in reaching out to these parents.

Nancy P. Kraft, Ph.D.
Director, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

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**PHYSICAL ACTIVITY**

There are 1,440 minutes in every day...schedule 30 of them for physical activity even if you do it in 3 ten minute segments. The following are some suggestions for increasing your everyday activity level:

- Park the car farther away from your destination.
- Get on or off the bus several blocks away
- Take the stairs
- Take fitness breaks, either walking or doing desk exercises, instead of cigarette or coffee breaks
- Exercise while watching TV
- Dance to music while doing household chores
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 Legislative Training invitation mid August.

The 2007 - 2008 Citizenship Program theme is -

“If I could change one thing about my government it would be....”

This program is for 5th through 9th grades.

Important Deadlines are:
Deadline: Tuesday, October 02, 2007 Local unit chairperson
Deadline: Tuesday, October 16, 2007 Council President**
Deadline: Tuesday, November 06, 2007 Region Vice President
Deadline: Tuesday, November 20, 2007 State chairperson

The 2007 – 2008 Reflections Program theme is –

“I can make a difference by..”

The Reflections Program is for Pre-K through 12th grades.
Deadline: Tuesday, January 8, 2008 to the Local unit chairman
Deadline: Tuesday, January 22, 2008 to your Council President**
Deadline: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 to your Region Vice President
Deadline: Tuesday, February 12, 2008 to the State chairman

** If your unit does not belong to a Council – forward directly to your Region Vice President.
Note – National PTA has added to the form this year 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!
State Officers

President .................................................. Jan Long ......................... 1400 Louise Lane, Salina, KS  67401 ......................... 785-827-9996 .................. janlong@cox.net
President-Elect ............................................. Debbie Lawson .......... 15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS  66219 ......................... 913-541-0806 ........ Debbie@burlislawson.com
VP Advocacy ................................................. Jackie Waters .............. 1417 Loring, Haysville, KS  66060 ......................... 316-522-0706 ........... puddles73@aol.com
VP Extension Services ................................. Tammy Bartels .............. 504 S. Delaware, P.O. Box 393, Tonganoxie, KS  66066 .... 913-417-7031 ........... racelan@sunflower.com
VP Member Services ................................. Chris Aiken .................. 4820 Millidge, Shawnee, KS  66226 ............................ 913-422-3756 ........ powercatmom@everestkc.net
Secretary ...................................................... Patty Jurich ............... 6125 Kimball, Kansas City, KS  66104 ......................... 913-334-6501 ........... Pasj36@kcrr.com
Treasurer ..................................................... Sharon Rakos .............. 10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66221 ........ 913-708-5501 ........... srakos@kcrr.com

Region Vice Presidents

Region 1 Vice President ................................. Vacant ..........
Region 2 Vice President ................................. Vacant ..........
Region 3 Vice President ................................. MeShawn Morse ........ 1600 E. Winesap, Haysville, KS  67060 ......................... 316-522-6650 ........ morse2.1@sbcglobal.net
Region 4 Vice President ................................. Janet Wood .............. 148 Florida Ave., Salina, KS  67401 ......................... 785-827-6635 ........... cajungirl64@cox.net
Region 5 Vice President ................................. Vacant ..........
Region 6 Vice President ................................. Jennifer Stellwagon .... 915 W. 29th Street, Lawrence, KS  66046 ......................... 785-841-9405 ........... jstellwagon@sunflower.com
Region 7 Vice President ................................. Monica Crowe .......... 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS  66104 ......................... 913-299-3883 ...... crowemonica@yahoo.com
Region 8 Vice President ................................. Cynthia Jarrold ....... 5107 Reeds Drive, Shawnee Mission, KS  66207 ........ 913-381-1543 ........ cjarrold@sbcglobal.net

State Chairmen

2008 Convention ........................................... Debbie Lawson .......... 15719 W. 86th Street, Lenexa, KS  66219 ......................... 913-541-0806 ........ Debbie@burlislawson.com
Arts in Education & Awards ............................ Peg Newton .............. 34040 W. 84th Terrace, Desoto, KS  66018 ......................... 913-583-1917 ........ Pegpta@yahoo.com
Budget Committee Chairman ........................... Sharon Rakos .............. 10902 W. 144th Terrace, Overland Park, KS 66221 ........ 913-708-5501 ........... srakos@kcrr.com
Bylaws Review ............................................. Lauri DeNooy .......... 12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS  66215 ........ 913-548-7277 ........... lauridenooy@hotmail.com
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Health & Wellness ....................................... Denise Sultz .............. 9311 W. 81st Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66204 ........ 913-381-7824 ........ dansks@kspta
Inclusiveness / Diversity Leadership ................... Kayla Crowe .............. 3047 N. 65th Terrace, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........ 913-299-3583 .... carrot_top_101_2002@yahoo.com
Leadership .................................................. Jill Molina .............. 7812 W. 72nd Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66204 ........ 913-648-1238 ........ sonic1us@yahoo.com
Membership ............................................... Beth Brown .............. 2400 N. 62nd Street, Kansas City, KS  66104 ......................... 913-271-5955 ........... Bbrowne@hotmai.com
Parent Involvement ..................................... Shirllyn Richardson .... 2709 N. 13th Street, Kansas City, KS  66104 ........ 913-371-4309 ........... Byniky@kcrr.com
PTA Store / Meeting Assistant ........................... Sheila Bunnell ....... 7028 Berry Road, Kansas City, KS  66106 ........ 913-375-1652 ........ SheilaBunnell@aol.com
Publicity / Marketing ...................................... Vacant ..........
Representative of Council Presidents .................... Sharilyn Davis ...... 717 Huehl Circle, Salina, KS  67401 ........ 785-825-8152 ........ skdavis74@sbcglobal.net
Resolutions Committee ................................. Jackie Waters .............. 1417 Loring, Haysville, KS  67060 ......................... 316-522-0706 ........... puddles73@aol.com
Resource Development .................................... Vacant ..........
State Bylaws ............................................... Debbie Lawson .......... 15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS  66219 ......................... 913-541-0806 ........ Debbie@burlislawson.com
State Legislative .......................................... Beth Brown .............. 7700 W. 83rd Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66204 ........ 913-648-2609 ........... mlruss@kcrr.com
State Extension .......................................... Diana Fabac .............. 5607 Crest Drive, Kansas City, KS  66106 ........ 913-375-1644 ........ fabacd@turnerusd202.org
Website .................................................... Robert DeNooy .......... 12216 W. 93rd Street, Overland Park, KS  66215 ........ 913-548-2254 ........... robert.denoy@gmail.com

Consultants / Committee Appointments

Immediate Past President ................................... Laura Kiser .............. 5222 W. 98th Terrace, Overland Park, KS  66207 ........ 913-341-3078 ........ LGKaiser@swbell.net
*Nominating & Leadership Dev ......................... Vicki Needham ........ 20918 W. 71st Street, Shawnee, KS  66218 ........ 913-441-0110 ........ BFJFbirds@aol.com
*OMDR ...................................................... Marie Thomas .............. 22833 E. 44th Avenue, Shawnee, KS  66226 ........ 913-422-7841 ........ mawrie@everestkc.net
*Parliamentarian .......................................... Ernie Goerend .............. 576 South Delaware Ave., Salina, KS  67401 ........ 785-825-6503 ........ Janlong1@cox.net
*Reflections .............................................. Heather Newton ........ 34040 W. 84th Terrace, DeSoto, KS  66018 ........ 913-583-1917 ........... newf006@yahoo.com

Council Presidents

*DeSoto ................................................. John Gaignat .............. 5607 Brownridge, Shawnee, KS  66218 ........ 913-422-1826 ........... gaignat@aol.com
*Kansas City ............................................. Judi Tucci .............. 310 N. 6th Street, Kansas City, KS  66101 ........ 913-621-1522 ....... Paula523@peoplepc.com
*Salina ..................................................... Sharyl Davis .............. 717 Huehl Circle, Salina, KS  67401 ........ 785-825-8152 ........ skdavis74@sbcglobal.net
*Shawnee Mission ....................................... Cynthia Jarrold ...... 9107 Reeds Drive, Shawnee Mission, KS  66207 ........ 913-381-1543 ........ cjarrold@sbcglobal.net
*Turner ..................................................... Julie Howard .............. 134 N. 71st, Kansas City, KS  66111 ........ 913-262-9473 ........ janlong1@cox.net

Office Support

*Kansas PTA Executive Director ...................... Sherrellynn Smith .... 13401 Bluejacket Street #7, Overland Park, KS  66213 .... 913-402-8141 ........... sherr44444444@kcrr.com
*Office Secretary ....................................... Sharon Julius .............. 715 S.W. Tenth, Topeka, KS  66612 ........ 785-234-5782 ........ ks_office@pta.org

*Not a board position.

This issue of the Bulletin is available on our website.
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September—October 2007

Return Service Requested

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Jan Long  President
Debbie Lawson  President-Elect
Jackie Waters  Vice President of Advocacy
Tammy Bartels  Vice President of Extension Services
Chris Aiken  Vice President of Member Services
Patty Jurich  Secretary
Sharon Rakos  Treasurer

PTA Membership Month, Fruit and Vegetable Month, Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month, National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month / Head Lice Prevention Month, National literacy Month, National Sickle Cell Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

3  Labor Day
11  Patriot Day
17  Constitution Day or Citizenship Day

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

OCTOBER

SUN  MON  TUE  WED  THU  FRI  SAT
30  1  2  3  4  5  6
2  3  4  5  6  7  8
9  10  11  12  13  14  15
16  17  18  19  20  21  22
23  24  25  26  27  28  29
30  1  2  3  4  5  6
7  8  9  10  11  12  13
14  15  16  17  18  19  20
21  22  23  24  25  26  27
28  29  30  31

Halloween Safety Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Lupus Awareness Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month

1  Early Bird Award—Initial memberships submitted by Oct. 1
2  National Child Health Day
6  Kansas Legislative Training
7  Fire Prevention Week
8  Columbus Day
8  PTA Start the Art Week
10  World Mental Health Day
16  Citizen Program should be to your Council President
24  United Nations Day
31  Halloween

PTA Membership Month, Fruit and Vegetable Month, Leukemia & Lymphoma Awareness Month, National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month / Head Lice Prevention Month, National literacy Month, National Sickle Cell Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

IMPORTANT DATES

Kansas PTA Convention
April 18-20, 2008
Salina, Kansas

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