2007 Kansas PTA Legislative Conference

Monday, February 12, 2007
Capitol Plaza Hotel – Maner Conference Center
1717 SW Topeka Blvd. Topeka, KS

Information is also available on the website at www.ptasonline.org/kspta

At the Conference, you will:

▪ receive updates on Federal and State Legislative issues,
▪ learn how to improve your advocacy efforts,
▪ hear speakers on timely topics important to Kansas public education,
▪ have the opportunity to meet and have lunch with your local Legislator, and
▪ be making a difference for all Kansas children!

Kansas PTA will host an informal get-together February 11th at the Capitol Plaza Hotel (hospitality room) from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. Please join us!

Please make plans to attend the 2007 Legislative Conference. You will receive valuable information as we work to fulfill our PTA mission 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 our children.

Please call Debbie Lawson, Legislative Chair at 913-541-0806 with questions.

Registrations must be postmarked by Thursday, February 1, 2007

Please join PTA members from across Kansas at the Holiday Inn West in Overland Park
April 20 – 22, 2007
for the
Kansas State PTA 93rd Annual Convention
Happy New Year and Happy Birthday, PTA!

February 17th will be here before we know it. How have you planned to celebrate the 110th birthday of PTA? This is a time for us to let others know of our wonderful heritage – of the extraordinary work and vision a few courageous individuals had back in 1897! Their vision – their mission – the PTA mission has galvanized millions to work with one voice for ALL children. Our society has PTA to thank for kindergarten classes, child labor laws, hot lunch programs and so much more. This is the power of PTA! Thank YOU for the work you are doing to carry on this legacy. You are making a difference for EVERY child!

This is an important time for the future of your PTA and the legacy you will leave for future generations. The election of your nominating committee is a critical component. Your bylaws will tell you when and who elects your nominating committee. Once new officers are elected it is essential that both the outgoing and the incoming officers plan for a smooth and seamless transition.

The Kansas PTA Board of Managers have been hard at work planning excellent training for you at our legislative conference, February 12th and our state convention, April 20th through 22nd. We look forward to seeing you and other leaders from your PTA at both events.

Thank you for all you are doing for the children in Kansas. By working together we are providing a strong voice for all children.

Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA President
Advocating for Children through PTA

By: Anna M. Weselak
National PTA President

One of the important roles PTA plays on the local, state, and national scenes is as an advocate for children and education to lawmakers. Throughout PTA’s 110-year history, advocacy has been an important cornerstone of our work—one that helped create kindergarten, the national school lunch program, and most recently, the parent involvement component of the school standards of excellence required by the No Child Left Behind Act. As PTA leaders, it is important for you to help influence lawmakers, school boards, and others to take positive action for children and education.

Perhaps entering the political process to pursue a goal or cause seems like a daunting task, one that will require too much of your time and effort. Please consider for a moment the time you take to volunteer at school, attend awards assemblies, participate in parent-teacher conferences, or cheer at your child’s athletic events. Each of these actions shows your support for your child and their school. You are, in fact, already acting as an advocate. Legislative advocacy can take as little or as much time as you might devote to one of these other advocacy events.

PTA is recognizing the week of February 19, 2007, as PTA Advocacy Week. During this week, please consider ways that you might be able to participate in the legislative process. With the changes that occurred during the elections this past November, PTA leaders and members will need to get to know a new set of lawmakers. Visit the local office of your federal legislators, as well as those of your state and local officials and present the case for children and education as a priority. Now is the time to get involved and help achieve your PTA’s goals.

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.

PTA sigue apoyando activamente a los niños

Uno de los más importantes aspectos de PTA local, estatal y nacional, es apoyar activamente a los niños e informar a los legisladores. A través de la historia de 110 años de PTA, el apoyo ha sido algo muy importante en nuestro trabajo, primero, ayudamos a crear el kindergarten, luego el programa “national school lunch”, y recientemente, el componente de la participación de padres requerida por “No Child Left Behind Act” (Acta de que ningún niño se quede atrás). Como líderes de PTA, es importante que usted ayude a influenciar a nuestros legisladores, asociaciones, juntas escolares y otros grupos para que tomen acción positiva para los niños y su educación.

Quizás entrar al proceso político parece una temida tarea, algo que requerirá mucho de su tiempo y esfuerzo. Considere por favor por un momento, el tiempo que usted toma para ayudar en la escuela, asistir a las asambleas de premios, tomar parte en las conferencias de padres y maestros, o atender a los juegos atléticos de su niño. Cada una de estas acciones, muestra su apoyo para su niño y su escuela. Usted, de hecho, ya está actuando como tal. El apoyo activo legislativo puede tomar el pequeño o mediano tiempo, como usted quizás dedique a una de estas otras acciones de apoyo.

PTA creará la semana del 19 de febrero de 2007, como “PTA Advocacy Week” (la Semana del Apoyo Activo de PTA). Durante la misma, por favor considere las maneras en las que usted pueda tomar parte en el proceso legislativo. Con los cambios que ocurrieron durante las elecciones de noviembre pasado, líderes y miembros de PTA necesitarán conocer al nuevo grupo de legisladores. Visite la oficina local de sus legisladores federales, así como los su estado y presente el caso para niños y su educación como una prioridad. Ahora es el tiempo de meterse y ayudar a lograr las metas de su PTA.
The election of officers is one of the most important duties of the association. The bylaws should define the method of nomination and election that best suits the needs of the association. Nomination by a nominating committee is the method most widely used. Your bylaws should state when the committee is elected and by whom. Serving on a nominating committee is an honor and a privilege. The decisions of the nominating committee will impact the future of your PTA. Check your bylaws NOW!

- The committee members are elected, not selected, and should have PTA knowledge and know members within the PTA.
- The president does not appoint the nominating committee and may not be an ex officio member, nor is it appropriate for the president to exert any influence on its selection of nominees.
- The chair of the committee is selected according to the provisions of the bylaws.
- It is the responsibility of the nominating committee to recognize and seek qualified nominees for the elected leadership of the PTA. The members of the committee, therefore, have a tremendous influence on the future of the PTA and should be carefully elected.
- Committee members themselves may be nominated for office. They should be excused from the room while their nomination is being considered and may return to vote.
- Discussion of nominees is confidential and voting should be by ballot. A prospective nominee does not need to know that he/she was not your first choice.
- Consider new people so your PTA grows and does not give the impression of being a “clique.”
- Don’t just select people because they expect to be asked or might be offended if not asked. Choose them because they are right for the job.
- Don’t tell prospective candidates, “It’s not a big job.” The prospective nominee should be informed of exactly what the position entails.
- Nominees must give their consent to serve if elected.

★ ★ ★ Kansas PTA 2007-2009 Slate of Nominees ★ ★ ★

The Kansas PTA Nominating and Leadership Development Committee is pleased to report the following slate of nominees for the 2007-09 term of office:

President-Elect – Debbie Lawson, Region 8  
Vice President of Member Services – Chris Akin, Region 6  
Vice President of Extension Services - Tammy Bartels, Region 7  
Vice President of Advocacy - Jackie Waters, Region 3  
Secretary – Patty Jurich, Region 7  
Treasurer – Sharon Rakos, Region 6

The bios of each nominee will be printed in the March-April 2007 issue of the Bulletin. The nominating committee wishes to thank the nominees for their interest in serving and sharing their time and talents with Kansas PTA.

I would also like to thank the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee for all their hard work in putting this slate together—many thanks goes to Gail Vertz, Debbie Lawson, Jackie Waters, and Sharalyn Davis!

“The Nominating & Leadership Development Committee shall report to the convention on the first day of business, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor, provided consent has been obtained from the nominees. Nominees running from the floor must give thirty (30) days notification before the beginning of the state convention of their intent to run. This notification must be given in writing to the state president and chairman of the Nominating & Leadership Development Committee.”

(Kansas PTA bylaws Article VI, Sec.12)

Chris Akin, Nominating and Leadership Development Committee Chairman

★ ★ ★ Don’t forget to send in your dues monthly! ★ ★ ★

All PTA units are to submit their dues monthly to Kansas PTA. They MUST be received by March 1st in order to be counted in the report to National PTA for the current year (Kansas PTA State Bylaws Article XII, Section 9).
Welcome Families into Your School

PTA Take Your Family to School Week
February 11–17, 2007

PTA was founded in 1897 to take action on behalf of children, support parents, and encourage family involvement in schools. Times have changed, but the PTA Mission is just as relevant now as it was 110 years ago. That’s why, today, we celebrate PTA Take Your Family to School Week in conjunction with Founders Day, February 17. PTA Take Your Family to School Week is an opportunity to connect family members to a child’s school experience.

Take Your Family to School Week connects PTAs with the founding mission by:
- Giving parents a new perspective on their children’s school day;
- Showing children that families and communities value education; and
- Offering schools a way to invite families into the school and build relationships with parents.

You will find excellent resources to make your “PTA Take Your Family to School Week” successful on the National PTA website:
http://www.pta.org/archive_article_details_1166201836562.html

SUPPORT: Take Your Family to School Week was supported by education, business, and community leaders, including Secretary Margaret Spellings, U.S. Department of Education; Scholastic Inc.; and the National School Boards Association:

Remember, PTA Take Your Family to School Week events don’t need to be elaborate; they simply need to make families feel welcome at the school.

Source: National PTA

Reach Out to Your Local Government during PTA Advocacy Week

February 19–23, 2007

Contact your legislators in their home office during PTA Advocacy Week

Advocacy week presents an opportunity to meet with your representatives in person, as they are working in their hometown offices. Bring your top PTA priorities to their attention and ask your legislators to work toward solutions. Is your school community focusing on the importance of arts in education? Does your PTA unit frequently address school nutrition and wellness issues? See a need for a stop sign or speed bump near school grounds? Maybe you’ve been pushing to change policies to better include parents in the education system? These are just a few examples of the important work PTAs are currently involved in. As our nation’s oldest and largest child advocacy organization, we have the power to influence policies and practices affecting children. Let’s join together and use our voices to make progress toward securing a quality education and safe, supportive environments for all children to learn.

To learn the skills necessary to be an effective advocate, visit www.pta.org/advocacy to access tools that will help your PTA partner with teachers, principals, the school board, and the superintendent. Reach out effectively to local government officials and then to the state government to drive positive change!

Source: PTA Local Leader e-newsletter
Just a reminder that the 2007 State PTA Convention is right around the corner – the convention registration packets were mailed in January to all unit presidents, principals and superintendents (that have PTA’s in their district) as well as delegates that attended the 2006 convention. If you did not receive your packet, please contact the state office immediately and one will be sent out. Registration information is also available on the Kansas PTA website.

We have several exciting new events and some returning favorites this year. We will once again sponsor the Walk for Healthy Kids as well as many fun and exciting workshop choices. New this year will be 2 pre-convention workshops on leadership and grant writing, and a Free Parent Involvement Forum for school administrators. We will also sponsor the first ever KS PTA Youth Summit. Check out the registration packet for more details!

Kansas PTA is proud to announce that Anna Weselak, National PTA President, will join us at Convention Sunday April 22nd. Anna will present a workshop on Motivating and Managing Volunteers and will install the 2007-2009 Kansas PTA Officers during the general meeting. She will also help recognize Reflections winners at the awards ceremony.

We are also happy to report that Lee Ann Clark, National PTA Membership Services Director, will join us Saturday the 21st to present workshops on OMDR and Effectively Selling PTA Membership. Lee Ann will also be available to answer questions during lunchtime networking.

Are you looking for a way to recognize a super teacher or PTA volunteer? Check out the Convention Registration Packet for information on Convention Ads, the Wall of Fame, and Honorary Life Memberships. These are affordable ways to recognize and important person and support PTA programs in the process.

Watch the Kansas PTA website for convention updates at http://www.ptasonline.org/kspta.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2007 convention!

Tammy Bartels, Kansas PTA VP of Membership & Organizational Services and 2007 Convention Chairman
Children's Safety
In the late 1950s the PTA promoted traffic safety education through many of its state congresses.

Our Founders
Founders Day is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea—to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

Our Founders’ Vision
Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst founded an organization—a nationwide movement—in a time when social activism was scorned and women did not have the vote. They knew there is no stronger bond than that between mother and child. Therefore, they felt it was up to mothers of this country to eliminate the threats that endangered children. They called for action in 1897 and more than 2,000 people responded—many were mothers, but fathers, teachers, laborers, and legislators also responded—all with a commitment to children. From that first meeting in Washington DC grew a groundswell of support. Problems were identified and strategies devised to resolve them. Through consistent hard work, sometimes after years of perseverance, the dreams became reality: the creation of kindergarten classes, child labor laws, a public health service, hot lunch programs, a juvenile justice system, and mandatory immunization were accepted as national norms.

Excellent schools don’t just happen … they’re created!
The Parent Involvement Schools of Excellence Certification is here for you!

This 3 year certification is designed to help schools in the nation assess their parent involvement practices, make improvements where needed, and earn one of two distinctions, Certification of Excellence or Certification of Commitment. Applications are accepted year round and all schools are encouraged to apply.

The school’s certification is recognized by the organizations of the advisory board that helped develop this certification: the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Education Association, the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education, and the National School Public Relations Association. For more information, visit: http://www.pta.org/picert/
The toolkit contains information and resources on the following:

1. Getting Involved/ PTA and Grassroots Advocacy
   - Advocacy vs. Lobbying
   - Setting the Stage for Advocacy
   - “Inside” vs “Outside” Lobbying
   - Why Lobby? Ten Reasons to Lobby for Your Cause

2. Steps to Effective PTA Advocacy
   - Determine the issue
   - Check National PTA Positions and Resolutions
   - Research the Issue
   - Build Your Volunteer Network

3. Targeting
   - Primary Targets
   - Secondary Targets
   - On-going Targets
   - State and Local Legislative Targets
   - Tactics for Influencing Your Targets

4. Coalitions
   - Advantages and Disadvantages of Coalitions
   - Considerations for Joining/Building Coalitions
   - Informal Coalitions
   - Formal Coalitions
   - Ad Hoc Coalitions

5. Developing an Appealing Message
   - Using the Media
   - Communicating with Decision Makers

6. Tips for Working with Lawmakers
   - Six Practical Tips on Lobbying Your Legislator or Elected Official
   - Dos & Don’t of Lobbying at a Glance

Source: National PTA website
http://pta.org/advocacy/index.html

PTA Grassroots Advocacy Toolkit at:
http://pta.org/advocacy/index.html

National PTA has developed and assembled a variety of useful tools that enable you to quickly access the information needed to help in your advocacy activities on behalf of PTA.

National PTA’s priorities complement PTA’s mission of advocating for services and policies that benefit children, educating parents to be advocates for their children, and engaging community members in support of public education.

- **Parent Involvement** Studies continue to show that regardless of the economic, ethnic, or cultural background, parent involvement in a child’s education is a major factor in determining success in school.
- **Safe and Nurturing Environments** National PTA supports initiatives that foster a safe and supportive school climate, including violence prevention measures, delinquency prevention initiatives, class-size reduction efforts, counseling programs, and health and welfare reforms that meet the needs of underserved children and families.
- **Support for Public Education** Strengthen public education for our nation’s children through advocacy and promotion, and engaging community members in support of public education.

**Did you know?**

- **PTA Supports Safer Schools Legislation** - PTA officially endorsed the Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (SAVE) Act (H.R. 297)
- **PTA Filed Comments with FTC on Food Marketing to Kids** - PTA joined fellow members of the Children’s Media Policy Coalition in filing comments with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) regarding the FTC’s investigation into food industry marketing activities and expenditures targeted to children and adolescents.
- **PTA opposes the exploitation of students through commercial operations** that require students to view advertising or to study specific instructional programs as a condition of the school’s receiving a donation of money or a donation or loan of equipment. Therefore, PTA has sought Channel One’s removal from schools since the company’s inception.

Keep apprised of legislative issues such as these and many more by subscribing to National PTA’s This Week in Washington.
Reward achievements
Make sure that all students who participated—even in small ways—are rewarded exactly as advertised. Present personal and group awards after the products have been delivered. Announce dollars earned, top sellers, and prizewinners. Display charts in classrooms or school halls to give students a sense of achievement in helping the PTA reach its goal.

Celebrate
Make a fuss about special achievement. Tell everyone, “We did better than anticipated so there will be ice cream on Friday for everybody.” Plan a wrap-up assembly. If your principal promised to kiss a pig, tell the students that you’ve located the biggest, smelliest pig in town. Most important of all, talk about what you’ll do with the money. In letters to volunteers, in your newsletter, and on your website, emphasize with the fundraising made possible. Be specific. You might say “Because of the success of this sale, we can now fund a new field trip.” Include a photo. Publish all the field trips you provide for children in your school.

Say thanks
Parent volunteers feel extra commitment to a project if their contributions are also recognized. Use the school sign to say “Great Job!” To add a personal touch, send supporters photocopies of one child’s handwritten note of add a brief handwritten thanks to photocopies of a typed letter. Use automated calling to say, “thank you.”

Recognize volunteers
Broadcast the names of active volunteers. In your newsletter or by email, list the names of all participants. Create a tree of thanks on a wall at school, writing volunteers’ names and brief notes about their contributions on colored leaves around the trees. Take photos of parent volunteers handing out and picking up their orders and post these on your website and school bulletin board. Create a “Walk of Fame” with a red carpet remnant, decorated with stars that include each participant’s name.

Show appreciation
Express gratitude tangibly. At your next PTA meeting, ask all who helped with the sale to stand. Designate a parking spot for a special volunteer of the week or reserve a prime parking space for a top volunteer at the next school event. With each order you pass out, include a pair of complimentary passes to the next ticketed event at the school or a pencil with the group’s name or a bumper sticker promoting your group. If you hold a volunteer appreciation breakfast or luncheon, send a chocolate bar with the invitation.

Have fun
Remind volunteers that sales can be fun. At your next meeting, play “Jeopardy” with topics relating to your volunteers. Write and read poems about individual volunteers. Buy some goofy yard ornaments such as plastic flamingoes, then plan one each week in a volunteer’s front yard along with a note of thanks. Make your volunteer luncheon a little wacky by calling it “Volunteeraville” and serving cheeseburgers and milkshakes in a Jimmy Buffet buffet (complete with Jimmy Buffet music!!)

Give and get feedback
Solicit volunteers’ ideas for how to improve the sale so all opinions count. Schedule a meeting with the fundraising professional with whom you worked. Ask them how it went from their end. Was there anything they’d do differently or suggest you do differently next time? Likewise, share your suggestions for how they can do a better job. Think of things that would have made your job easier if only you had known ahead of time.

Vicky Needham, Treasurer
Adapted from “The Fundraising Edge”, a resource for product fundraising issues and trends for parents, teachers, principals and non-profit group volunteers, published by the Association of Fund-Raising Distributors and Suppliers (www.afrds.org)
The Keys to Leadership program was designed to encourage training and leadership development for all Kansas PTA members. The Leadership program encourages Kansas PTA members to broaden their scope of service. PTA recognizes several areas of importance: Legislation, Health and Welfare, Education and Arts. Understanding how each of these areas impact families and children gives the potential leader valuable knowledge and wisdom. In return this makes the person a stronger advocate.

**There are three award areas:**
1. Kansas PTA Unit Key Leadership Award: Designed to recognize the leadership achievements of local PTA units and councils.
2. Kansas PTA Leadership Training Program Level I: Designed to recognized individual leadership achievements of PTA members.
3. Kansas PTA Leadership Training Program Level II: Designed to recognized individual leadership who have accomplished Level I basic and want to proceed to Level II status.

Each unit or individual who completes the requirements set forth by the Kansas PTA will receive a Certificate and Key pin in recognition of their accomplishments at the Kansas State PTA Convention.

All presidents received this valuable information and Completion Records in their Summer Packets. Should you have questions or comments about this program please feel free to contact the Kansas PTA Leadership Chairman, Debbie Taylor. Her address and phone number is located on the back of this bulletin.

Help Kansas PTA build strong leaders for our children and communities.

Make this 2006-2007 the year of accomplishment and recognition.

*Debbie Taylor, Leadership Chairman*

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**OMDR: Announcing New and Updated Features!**

1. Unified Log In Screen. This will simplify the sign-on process for all users. The user won’t select the level – that will be dictated by the username and password.
2. User Name Recovery Feature. This functions much like the “password recovery” feature. It’s available to all users.
3. Local Unit Membership Year Definition. Under the Local Unit Update screen, unit users can set their own membership year.

In addition, we will be migrating from the OMDR listserv to an OMDR Bulletin Board. The listserv will not be available after 12/20/06. Users can go to the bulletin board to make comments, ask questions, etc. If you have any questions, please let us know.

*Thanks for all you do!*

*Tammy Bartels*

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**Honor Those Who Are Making a Difference in the Lives of Children!**

**Kansas PTA Awards:**

*Every PTA knows of deserving candidates for these awards. Your PTA must be a “unit in good standing” to participate. Don’t delay – nominate today!*

- **Educators** – Kansas PTA Outstanding Educator Award – 3/9/07 deadline
- **Students** – Kansas PTA Outstanding Student Award – 3/9/07 deadline
- **Leadership** – Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award – 2/9/07 deadline
- **Volunteers** – Wall of Fame – year-round (no deadline)

Forms and information for Kansas PTA Awards can be found on the Kansas PTA website at [www.ptasonline.org/kspta](http://www.ptasonline.org/kspta).

**Awards from Confidence in Public Education Task Force:**

For more information, go to: [http://www.ksconfidencetaskforce.org](http://www.ksconfidencetaskforce.org)

**Friends of Education Awards Program**. This program recognizes volunteer efforts throughout the state. Nominations are solicited in five categories - school volunteer, community leader, community/civic organizations, private/public sector institutions and partner activity. **Nominations are currently being taken for the 25th Annual Friends of Education Awards Deadline is January 27, 2007.**

In addition, the Task Force presents the **ABC Award** to an individual or organization that has provided a long-term contribution, had a significant impact, or demonstrated an uncommon commitment to public education across the state.
Local PTA units in Kansas are doing many wonderful things in the area of membership recruitment and we want you to be recognized for your efforts.

There are many different awards available this year, including some exciting new awards! A complete list of available awards with requirements can be found on the back of your Treasurer Remit Form (available on the KS PTA website under Resources).

To be eligible, the completed form must be submitted with your dues payment by March 1, 2007.

National PTA is also offering the National PTA Local Unit Award again this year:

All local PTAs are eligible to apply. There’s no fee to participate, and the application process is easy! Fill out the award application now!

Deadline: March 15, 2007, to apply for the 2006-2007 membership year. Qualifying PTAs will receive a commendation from National PTA.

Local PTAs are doing great things all the time. The PTA Unit Achievement Awards recognize and celebrate that fact. To receive an achievement award certificate, a local PTA must fulfill four easy-to-accomplish requirements:

- Obtain a 5 percent net increase in membership or have a minimum of one PTA member per student in the school(s) served by your PTA.
- Conduct a program or project that provides an opportunity for parents to be involved in the school.
- Host a program or project designed to increase awareness among parents about issues that affect student achievement or school success.
- Have representatives from your unit participate in your state PTA’s convention or another state-sponsored event.

There will be up to four honorable mention recipients, each of whom will receive $500. The national winner and four honorable mentions will each receive a commemorative award. All qualified applicants for the award will receive a certificate of participation.

The national winner and honorable mention recipients will be notified in early June 2007. Award money will be distributed in July 2007. All applicants will be notified of their status by the end of July 2007.

Application postmark deadline to Kansas PTA is February 9, 2007

Application & more information is located at: http://www.pta.org/localLeadershipSubprogram_1116958628468.html

Tammy Bartels, VP of Membership/Organizational Services

2007 Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Program

PTAs must be in good standing to apply.

A limited number of matching grants of up to $1,000 are awarded each year to local PTAs for student-centered programs focused on arts education. Special consideration is given to programs that reach large numbers of students, especially students who are at risk. At risk is the term applied to children whose environmental, familial, and/or socioeconomic situation may affect their academic success or ability to learn.

Completed applications must be received by the national PTA office on or before May 1, 2007, for consideration. Grant recipients will be notified in early June, and grants will be distributed beginning in October 2007. All applicants will be notified of the status of their applications by the end of July 2007.

For more information and an application go to:
PTAs Benefit Everyone. PTA addresses issues that are important to public school administrators and parents. We fight for the same thing—full funding, quality teachers, and capabilities for schools to thrive. Membership is open to everyone, your PTA is autonomous but supported by a national structure, and it sets its own dues.

Leverage Volunteer Power. PTA organizes hard-working and dedicated volunteers. Parents are ready and willing to help implement school improvement programs. All you need to do is ask and give a little direction.

Improve Communication. Frequently, one of a PTA’s responsibilities is coordinating production of a school newsletter and information fliers, keeping the entire school community informed of current events, issues, and accomplishments. In addition, regularly scheduled meetings are an opportunity for you to share information with members.

See Measurable Results. More than 85 rigorous academic research studies conducted through over 30 years of research prove that kids do better when parents are involved. Grades are higher. Test scores improve. Attendance increases.

Tap into Proven Programs. Local PTAs have access to ready-made programs with proven success records. From health and safety topics, to collaborating with teachers and community members, to fundraising, the programs are packaged to be easy to use, and easy to get results.

Boost Children’s Well-Being. PTAs focus on what students need to be successful in their learning, including nutrition, health, and well-being. Whether it is school safety, physical fitness, or healthy breakfasts, PTA works with school administrators to ensure that children are prepared to succeed.

Enjoy Informed Parents. Perhaps one of the most important benefits is that involved parents understand the challenges schools face and become part of the solution. They support improving education, both locally and legislatively. By developing a closer relationship with parents, student achievement improves, and the school develops a positive reputation in the community.

Fulfill NCLB Obligations. Finally, as part of the No Child Left Behind Act, PTAs can help schools fulfill the parent involvement requirement of the law. PTA understands the needs behind NCLB. In fact, it’s National PTA’s definition of parent involvement that is used in NCLB.

Ways to Recognize

Published by LeTourneau University Office of Student Activities.
2005 National PTA Leadership Conference Handout

Sometimes it’s not easy to find the words to say “Well done!” Perhaps this will give you some new ideas:

- You’ve got it made! Perfect!
- That’s RIGHT! You outdid yourself today.
- You’re on the right track now! Good for you
- You’re very good at that. You’re doing beautifully.
- Good Work! You did a lot of work today.
- You’re really working hard today. You’ve got that down pat.
- That’s the best you’ve ever done. Clever!
- Stupendous! I think you’ve got it now.
- I knew you could do it! That makes me feel good.
- Not Bad. Wonderful!
- You’re learning quickly. Way to go!
- Great! Terrific!
- You made it look easy. Congratulations.
- Nice going. Keep on trying.
- Tremendous! Marvelous!
- Keep up the good work! Much better!
- That’s coming along nicely. I like that.
- Nothing can stop you now. I’m very proud of you.
- Awesome! Fantastic!
- That’s better than ever. Super!
- That’s half bad. That’s really nice.
- Sensational! That’s great.
- Good going. Outstanding!
- You really make my job fun. Wow!
- Now that’s what I call a fine job!
- That’s really nice.
- That’s great.
- Outleading.
- Nothing can stop you now.
- That’s coming along nicely.
- That’s half bad.
- That’s the best you’ve ever done.
- You made it look easy.
- Nice going.
- Tremendous!
- Keep up the good work!
- That’s coming along nicely.
- Nothing can stop you now.
- Awesome!
- That’s better than ever.
- That’s half bad.
- Sensational!
- Good going.
- You really make my job fun.
- Now that’s what I call a fine job!
- Excellent!
- Good thinking.

Debbie Taylor, Leadership Chairman

Exciting U.S. government interagency Kids' Portal – just for kids!
http://www.kids.gov/

This site was developed and is maintained by the Federal Citizen Information Center. It provides links to Federal kids’ sites along with some of the best kids' sites from other organizations all grouped by subject. Explore, learn, have fun and don't forget to add us to your favorites!

Adapted from the National PTA website www.pta.org
The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) is ready to serve you and your school's parent involvement needs. The KPIRC has expanded -- adding several new staff members and is moving to a new location in Topeka (3500 SW 10th Avenue). We have many parent involvement resources on our website -- www.kpirc.org -- that we hope you will share with other parents in your schools. Also please have your principal put a link to the KPIRC on your school's website, as we are continually adding new links and resources to assist your parent involvement needs. As always, if you have any questions about parent involvement and your rights under No Child Left Behind, please don't hesitate to contact us -- 1 866 711-6711. We look forward to a long relationship and continued partnership with the Kansas PTA.

Nancy P. Kraft, Ph.D., Director

Kansas Coordinated School Health – E-Lines – is an excellent electronic newsletter that contains the latest news and resources concerning health, nutrition and safety issues (including grants and funding opportunities). Visit www.kshealthykids.org to access the E-Lines link.

Jane Groff, KPIRC Asst. Director

Kansas PTA Representing Our Members and ALL Children!

The Kansas PTA is collaborating with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Student Support Services (Special Education), on the Parent Involvement Indicator of the State Performance Plan (SPP). The State Performance Plan is a six year plan developed with broad stakeholder input that provides oversight and guidance in carrying out IDEA-04 requirements to ensure a free and appropriate education (FAPE) for children with disabilities and their families, focusing on those areas most related to positive results and outcomes.

Collaboration with KSDE began in 2005 by crosswalking the proposed parent survey with the PTA Parent Involvement Standards endorsed by the Kansas State Board of Education in 2002. In November of 2006, PTA and other stakeholders met with KSDE to discuss measurable and rigorous targets for the SPP parent involvement indicator. These targets must reflect improvement in the six year SPP cycle. KSDE will use the targets in the SPP to analyze the performance of each Local Education Agency (LEA) Program in the State. The State shall report annually to the public on the performance of each LEA Program on the parent involvement target.

The SPP targets must be supported by an action plan that includes strategies describing how the targets will be achieved. At the December 2006 stakeholder meeting, discussion revolved around the possible activities that may be involved in the LEA action plans. This is a valuable dialogue among stakeholders to further promote parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

Jane Groff, KPIRC Asst. Director

Kansas Leadership for Alcohol Free Children – is working to educate and change the public's perception of underage drinking. “Not in Our House” is a new campaign to reduce access to alcohol by Kansas youth in our homes and our communities.

To find out more about this group and its endeavors, visit: http://www.kansasfamily.com/Pages/0200klkcaf.html or http://www.kansasfamily.com/getinvolved-ksleadership.cfm

KPIRC Asst. Director

“PTA Night at the K”

Saturday, May 5th, 2007–6:10 pm

Detroit Tigers vs Kansas City Royals

Hip Hip Hooray! It's time for PTA.

Head on out to "The K." Enjoy a night with friends and family from your school-Wear your school colors too!

- Parade around the ballpark with everyone from all the schools PTA's in attendance (minimum of 500 in attendance) Line up in the parking lot behind the scoreboard by 5:15 pm
- Buck Night $1 Hot Dog, $1 Sodas, $1 Peanuts
- First Pitch thrown out by PTA President whose school sold the most tickets

All money needs to be turned in to your PTA Leader by April 6th, 2007. Email Jen Hyland at jen.hyland@royals.com with any questions.

Information will be mailed out to PTAs shortly from the KC Royals. Tickets have been discounted to $10 (regularly $14).
Body Walk

Body Walk is an exciting educational exhibit for students in grades K-5, sponsored by Child Nutrition & Wellness, Kansas State Department of Education. Applications are usually due by April 1st. See www.bodywalk.org for more information.

Body Walk is about learning to EAT SMART. PLAY HARD.

- It's a great opportunity for students to learn about the importance of making healthy food choices and being physically active.
- It's an exciting tour of the human body featuring engaging, experiential educational activities.

What Is Body Walk? Body Walk consists of:

- a 35-foot by 40-foot walk-through exhibit representing the human body,
- classroom activities for use prior to and following the student’s walk through the exhibit,
- a take-home book for students to read with their families,
- a list of additional nutrition education resources, and

Uncle Dan’s Report Card

Kansas PTA recently mailed information out regarding the Uncle Dan’s Report Card program to every elementary PTA President and their principal, school counselor and superintendent.

Uncle Dan's Report Card is a 9-week checklist for practicing and recognizing the healthy habits that help children be successful in school and in life. It helps all adults who care for children pay attention to these non-academic behaviors throughout a child's day. The free tools on this site are designed to help parents and teachers of children from Pre-K through Third Grade make teaching and learning good behavior easy, fun and effective!

To find out more about this exciting parent involvement program go to: http://www.uncledansreportcard.org/

Learning First Alliance – Promoting America’s Public Schools


2. Practical Guide to Talking with Your Community: No Child Left Behind and Schools in Need of Improvement offers guidance on how to communicate and engage in dialogue with parents, community, media, and school staff about NCLB—http://www.learningfirst.org/publications/pubschools/

Visit the Governor’s Healthy Kansas website at: http://ksweb.ksde.org/cshp/html/elines.html for links to:

- Governor’s Healthy School award – Do you know a local school or school district that incorporates the good practices of HealthyKansas into their school community? Nominate them for a Healthy School award from the Governor. This is an “ongoing” process, without a deadline.
- CheckUp - A computer software product that helps individuals plan and manage their health activities is now available free exclusively to Kansans thanks to a public-private partnership in support of the HealthyKansas initiative.
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* Not a board position.
February, 2007
Black History Month—American Heart Month
9 … Virginia Peak and Phoebe Apperson Hearst deadlines, see pgs. 10-11
11-17 … PTA Take Your Family To School Week
12 … Kansas PTA Legislative Conference—Topeka
17 … Founder’s Day
19-23 … PTA Advocacy Week

March, 2007
Parenting Awareness Month—Youth Arts Month—Music in Our Schools Month
2 … NEA’s Read Across America
5 … Feb-Mar Bulletin mailed
9… Outstanding Educator and Student Award deadlines, see pg. 10
15 … Unit Achievement Award Deadline, see pg. 11
26-30…National Youth Violence Prevention Week

April, 2007
12 … National Drop Everything and Read Day
20-22 … 93rd KPTA State Convention—Overland Park

May, 2007
5 … PTA Night at the K (Royals baseball night)
6-12….PTA Teacher Appreciation Week

June-July, 2007
28-1 … 111th National PTA Convention—St. Louis