FEBRUARY 12, 2007

2007 Kansas PTA Legislative Conference

Live far from Topeka? Come and spend Sunday night at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Your Kansas PTA Board of Managers will be available for informal networking on Sunday evening, 8:30-10:30.

A benefit of membership in PTA: Mention Kansas PTA for a discounted room rate of $84 per night!

The following events will be held in the Manor Conference Center of the Capitol Plaza

Tentative Agenda:
- 8:30am-9:00am  Registration
- 9:00am-12:15pm  Conference Speakers
- 12:15pm-1:15pm  Lunch with your Legislator

Registration fees:
- $28.00 for PTA members (includes lunch)
- $18.00 for a Legislator’s lunch
- $40.00 for non-PTA member (includes lunch)

TAKE NOTE

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!

Make plans now to attend! PTA Members are encouraged to invite their legislator to lunch. Together we can make a difference and impact what is happening in Kansas!

Please check the website for final agenda and new developments.
Kansas PTA website @ www.ptaslonline.org/kspta.

Registrations must be postmarked by Thursday, February 1, 2007.
Message from the President

It’s hard to believe that Thanksgiving is just around the corner! What a perfect time to give thanks and to reflect on what we’ve done and what we still need to accomplish! I am so thankful for the countless hours that the Kansas PTA Board of Managers, other PTA leaders, volunteers, educators, administrators and others spend on behalf of the children in Kansas. Every single person is making a huge difference! Thank you!

In the next Bulletin I will have more information about the National PTA Leadership Conference, the National PTA Emerging Minority Leadership Conference and my recent visit to PTA Presidents and Principals in Regions 1, 2 and 4. My goal is to visit first those PTA units without a Region Vice President and then visit those who are not part of a council. Thank you to: Jan Long, Tammy Bartels, Peggy Davis, Shirlyn Richardson and J.D. Rios for attending the leadership conferences held by National PTA. The National PTA leadership conferences had a strong emphasis on ethics and the need for all PTAs to be “transparent.” GuideStar.org just had an interesting article on nonprofit transparency and what it means (it was their “Question of the Month”). The complete article can be found at: http://www.guidestar.org/DisplayArticle.do?articleId=1072. The Josephson Institute of Ethics (.www.josephsoninstitute.org) has extensive information on ethics.

Thank you to the PTA Presidents and Principals in Region 1, 2 and 4 who so graciously welcomed Patty Jurich and me into their buildings and took time out of their busy days to meet with us. Many stayed after hours or visited with us while they were in the middle of an event. I can’t express how wonderful it was to meet with each of you and how truly thankful I am for all you’re doing. I know you are reflective of all our PTAs and you are all doing such great things. Pictures from the trip will be in the next Bulletin. We love visiting PTA units, so please remember to invite us and we will make every effort to attend. Every PTA leader (whether the National PTA President or the local PTA President) is a volunteer. Others often don’t realize this and we need to remind them.

I wish you and your family a most wonderful holiday season and I look forward to meeting each of you at our upcoming events (Legislative Conference and Convention). Please know how thankful I am for all you are doing.

Laura Kaiser, Kansas PTA President

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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 SW Tenth Street, Topeka, KS 66612
PH (785) 234-5782
FAX (785) 234-4170
E-Mail: ks_office@pta.org
KS PTA Website: www.ptasonline.org/kspta
National PTA Website: www.pta.org

President: Laura Kaiser
Editor: Pam Wills

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.

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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.

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Kansas PTA is:
- A powerful voice for All children
- A resource for parents
- A strong advocate for public education
Continuing Our Legacy of Service

By: Anna M. Weselak
National PTA President

I have crisscrossed this country visiting schools and state, council, and local PTAs. Every community is different, but the comments I’ve heard and the work I’ve see reaffirms that we all share common goals—to improve the lives of children, promote parent involvement, and support our public schools. Those goals have remained the same since PTA was founded 110 years ago.

As I reflect on those 110 years of service, I look at what the entire PTA organization has accomplished and all that we continue to do. As a national organization, we remained concerned with our children’s health and the childhood obesity epidemic we find ourselves facing today. We are all striving to live more healthy lifestyles that include exercise and nutritious foods. The safety of our children has taken on a new meaning with electronic forms of communication and entertainment available to our children today right in our own homes. The quality of our public schools remains a primary interest of PTA as we work to save programs such as physical education, recess, and the arts.

The tragedies and disasters we have faced in the past few years, including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, brought us together as a nation and as a national organization to address the needs of schools, children, and families. I’m very happy to say that PTA efforts to help stricken communities return to normal did not end when the headlines faded. Our Adopt-a-PTA program and hurricane relief efforts are ongoing and a tribute to PTA’s ability to create a real and lasting sense of community, wherever our members are located.

As we look forward to our second-ever Take Your Family to School Week, held in conjunction with Founders Day in February, I hope you will share my pride in our successes and feel as inspired as I do by what PTA can do to add to our legacy of service to children, families, schools, and communities.

Anna Weselak
Presidenta Nacional de PTA

He entrecruzado el país visitando escuelas y PTAs del estado y locales. Cada comunidad es diferente, pero los comentarios que he oído y el trabajo que he visto reafirma que todos comparten un gol común - a mejorar las vidas de niños, promover el envolvimiento del padre, y apoyar nuestras escuelas públicas. Esas metas han seguido siendo iguales desde que PTA fue fundado hace 110 años.

Cuando reflexo en esos 110 años del servicio, pienso en qué PTA ha logrado y todo que continuamos haciendo. Como organización nacional, seguiremos preocupados con la salud de niños y la epidemia de la obesidad de la niñez que nos encontramos hoy. Hacemos esfuerzo para vivir formas de vida más sanas que incluyan ejercicio y los alimentos nutritivos. La seguridad de nuestros niños ha adquirido un nuevo significado con las formas electrónicas de comunicación y de hospitalidad disponibles a nuestros niños hoy en nuestros propios hogares. La calidad de nuestras escuelas públicas sigue siendo un interés primario de PTA mientras que trabajamos para salvar programas tales como educación física, recreo, y los artes.

Las tragedias y los desastres en reciente años, incluyendo 9/11 y el huracán Katrina, nos junto como nación y como organización nacional para tratar de ayudar a las escuelas, niños, y familias. Estoy bien constenta en decir les que los esfuerzos de PTA de ayudar a comunidades pulsadas a volver a normal no terminaron cuando se descoloraron los títulos. Nuestra programa de Adopt-a-PTA y los esfuerzos después del huracán continúan y un tributo a la capacidad de PTA de crear un sentido verdadero y duradero de la comunidad, dondequiera que estén nuestros miembros.

Acercándonos a nuestra segundo año de Take Your Family to School Week, llevada a cabo conjuntamente con Founders Day en febrero, espero que usted compartirá en nuestros éxitos y que se sentirá inspirado por lo que puede hacer PTA para agregar a nuestra herencia del servicio a los niños, a las familias, a las escuelas, y a las comunidades.

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 really speaks for itself. A network of parents and teachers who work together for the good of all children. We should all be willing to stand up and share our positive experiences with everyone we meet. That is what marketing is about and let’s face it we have a terrific product to offer. We care about the welfare of children, we volunteer to help make the lives of children better AND we are all too often afraid to talk about ourselves. This year I would like us all to make an effort to talk about PTA and ask everyone we know to join. I cannot think of anyone who does not want to help children. Do not be afraid to sell PTA. I am sold on PTA and I want everyone I know to be aware that PTA exists and they are a terrific organization to belong to. We are one of the few organizations where you can join the local, state and national PTA all for one low price. How many other organizations can say that? We need to get our names in the local, state and national news. Your PTA should know at least one parent who works with the media. Ask them to send out press releases about the activities that your PTA is sponsoring. Many radio and television stations offer free advertising to non-profit groups. I encourage each PTA group to utilize these free services. The more that people know about PTA the more likely they are to promote PTA. We are a word of mouth networking type of organization. We should be loud and proud to promote PTA. Do not sell your PTA group short. Promote them in as many ways as you can think of. If you have any more ideas please feel free to share them with all of us here at Kansas PTA.

You can contact me at (785) 554-3908 or at kokopella@sprintpcs.com.

Have you asked someone to join PTA today?
Have a terrific holiday season!

Andrea Burton, Marketing/PR Chair

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**Marketing/PR: Why sell yourself short?**

Registration materials and conference updates will be available towards the end of November on the Kansas PTA website at [www.ptasonline.org/kspta](http://www.ptasonline.org/kspta).

- Receive updates on Federal and State legislative issues
- Learn to improve your advocacy skills
- Hear speakers on timely topics important to Kansas public education
- Have the opportunity to meet and have lunch with your local Legislator
- Be making a difference for all children in Kansas!

Please make plans to attend the 2007 Legislative Conference as we work together to fulfill our 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 children in Kansas.

Questions???  Contact Debbie Lawson, Legislative Chair at 913-541-0806

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**2006-2007 PTA Unit Achievement Award Update**

The 2006-2007 PTA Unit Achievement Award application is now online at: [http://www.pta.org/localLeadershipSubprogram_1157664409109.html](http://www.pta.org/localLeadershipSubprogram_1157664409109.html)

You work hard all year long - We encourage every unit that qualifies to submit the form and get the recognition you deserve!
Sales Tax Exemption Certificates

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

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

You can also access a certificate that has been issued to the entity. To access the certificate, you will need the Kansas Exemption Number and the PIN that was on the cover letter mailed with the certificate. After logging into KsWebTax, you will be forwarded to the certificate page. Your previous treasurer should have this information specific to your unit in the permanent treasurer files. Read more about the Sales Tax Exemption Certificates in the 2006-07 Kansas Treasurer’s Guide sent to your unit on disk in August. An example of the certificate can be seen on Page 38.

If you still need help, contact me at BJFTbirds@aol.com.

Vicky Needham, Treasurer

Celebrate American Education Week – November 12th - 18th!
Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility

Celebrate partnerships between families, schools, and communities during American Education Week, November 12–18. This year’s theme, Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility, highlights the importance of bringing together educators, school staff, parents, students, and communities to build great public schools for all children. PTAs can use the National Education Association’s online toolkit to plan and promote events for each day of the week (http://www.nea.org/aew/toolkit.html).

The weeklong celebration features a special observance each day of the week. They include:

- **Sunday, November 12:** Student Leaders Day
- **Monday, November 13:** Nationwide Kick Off Celebration
- **Tuesday, November 14:** Invite Parents to School  On this day, schools across the nation will invite parents into the classroom for a hands-on experience of what the day is like for their child. The initiative is designed to spotlight the importance of parental involvement.
- **Wednesday, November 15:** Education Support Professionals Day
- **Thursday, November 16:** Educator for a Day
- **Friday, November 17:** Substitute Educators Day

PTAs play a vital role in creating and strengthening partnerships between parents, schools, and communities—and students are the beneficiaries of those efforts. Here are some ways your PTA can celebrate and continue building partnerships during American Education Week:

- Host an essay or art contest in which students write about or depict what they most like about school. Display the submissions throughout the school, and invite parents and community members to the school to view the students’ work. Ask a few students to talk to the visitors about why they like school.
- Invite parents and community members to the school to have lunch with the students.
- Invite community members to come to the school to volunteer.
- Send notes to community partners, parents, teachers, and school administrators thanking them for all they do to support student success.
- Invite local media to cover your events.

*Source: National PTA*
The leadership of every successful company knows that well-trained managers are necessary for the health and well-being of the organization. Not only does that include how to perform the expected job tasks, but ongoing and continuing training in the thought processes needed to explore better ways to contribute to the company. Why should this be any different when it comes to leading our PTAs?

Many opportunities are available throughout the year for your leaders to become better advocates for our children. As volunteers with a common passion, we have an obligation to offer a variety of training experiences for our leaders. Take the time this fall to examine your budget and explore how your PTA could contribute to the success of your unit by proper training of your leadership. Watch for these opportunities to “beef-up” your leaders’ PTA knowledge and then watch your membership grow.

**2007 Legislative Conference:** $28.00 per attendee (member, including lunch) and don’t forget to budget for lunch for your legislators $18.00 /we ALL have two, one Senator and one Representative, in Topeka. Budget for mileage and don’t forget to carpool to save on expenses. If you have State Citizenship Contest winners, you may want to invite them to lunch after the awards ceremony (new this year at the Legislative Conference!).

**2007 State Convention:** Around $100 per registrant including four meals, choice of workshops, all meetings. Budget also for the hotel accommodations and mileage and toll expenses.

**Region Trainings:** Nominal registration fee.

Watch for announcements of Council Training events in your area as well!

E-Learning at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) is free for all members and would be a terrific place to begin increasing the knowledge and skills of your entire unit! Current courses include:

- PTA Basics
- Planning Your PTA Year
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Running a Successful Program
- Conflict Management
- Planning and Goal Setting
- Grant Writing
- Effective Advocacy for Your Child
- Writing and Proposing PTA Resolutions

To get started, just go to the E-learning page and check it out: [http://www.pta.org/local_leader/elearning/course/homepage.cfm.htm](http://www.pta.org/local_leader/elearning/course/homepage.cfm.htm). Each course takes about 30-45 minutes to complete.

If your budget does not reflect amounts appropriated for training, please consider amending your budget at your next general meeting. Your unit bylaws should guide you on the procedure.

After you have invested in training your leadership and members, ask them to report to the unit about what they learned. We can strengthen our advocacy for all children when we share our knowledge.

Vicky Needham, Treasurer

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### The Nominating & Leadership Development Committee is looking for . . .

a Few Good Volunteers to serve on our State Board of Managers or as a committee member. Your skills are wanted and needed! Interested volunteers should submit a Talent Bank form, found on the Kansas PTA web site, at [www.ptasonline.org/kspta](http://www.ptasonline.org/kspta).

**Questions can be directed to any of our Nominating & Leadership Development Committee members:**

Region 8 - Debbie Lawson, Debbie@burlislawson.com (913) 541-1358
Region 7 - Gail Vertz, gv7@juno.com (913) 788-5310
Region 3 - Jackie Waters, puddles73@aol.com (316) 522-0706
Region 6 - Chris Akin, powercatmom@everestkc.net (913) 422-3756
Region 4 - Sharlyn Davis, skdavis74@sbcglobal.net (785) 825-8152

**Alternates**

Region 7 - Beth Brown, bbrown70@hotmail.com (913)328-0448
Region 6 - Andrea Burton, kokopella@sprintpcs.com (785)554-3908

Respectfully submitted, Chris Akin, Nominating & Leadership Development Committee Chair
You'll find the following exciting new functions on your unit OMDR page:

E-mail Your Members
Approved users can send e-mail messages to current unit members whose e-mail addresses are listed in OMDR. Users do not need separate e-mail programs to send e-mails through OMDR. Please note: This is not for attachments, but rather basic member information and reminders.

Just a note – this is a one-way communication. If you’re expecting responses, you should note an e-mail address to which they can respond. So the e-mail won’t be treated as “spam,” you can instruct your members to add the message they receive from you to their address book as a contact.

Membership Renewal
When you click on this option, the list of members in your unit whose memberships have expired – that is, their term-end date has passed – will appear. You can select a few, or all, to renew their membership. Once renewed, they’ll appear in the membership list.

Membership Removal
When you click on this option, you’ll see the list of current members in your unit. You can remove a member by highlighting and clicking “Remove Member(s).” You’ll want to be careful when you use this option, because removing a member will remove that person permanently from the list!

Stay tuned – there’s more to come!!

OMDR Questions and Answers:

Q. The batch upload system looks confusing to me. Anyone have any tips?
Q. Which columns do you not need for an upload?

A. On the "batch upload" screen, there is a link titled "more info" that you can click on to gain information on creating a document to upload. There is also a excel spreadsheet we'll be glad to e-mail to you, along with additional info.

Q. All of my board members are showing up twice...

A. Board members and officers will show up twice, because they're listed once as a member and once as an officer or board member. That's how the database keeps the records. They will not "count" as 2 members.

Q. Several of our local presidents said they did not want to give National PTA private information of their members at the request of their members.

A. People who join PTA should be aware they are joining three levels - there is a state organization and a national organization as well. It's a pretty good deal for the price! While National PTA is maintaining the database, it's totally available to and usable by units and states because members are asking for more services as a result of their membership. When the project was started, there was a group of nine state presidents who served as consultants in developing the product. Now there are more "OMDR Champions" who are helping guide the product along. Recognizing that the initial need was a database, the goal for 2007 is to make it more useful for units (more than a database!) as they manage their volunteer activities. In many cases, uploading members is a longer-term project, so take it in small chunks. If you're having difficulties with tasks, please contact your state PTA or the national office.

Just a reminder - there are instructions and tip sheets available – all you need to do is request them by contacting your state PTA office or the national office.

Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Projects Director, State Library of Kansas

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Read to your special "somebunny!"  The book chosen for the 2006 Kansas Reads to Preschoolers project is:  Bunny Cakes by Rosemary Wells!  We will celebrate the One Book for preschoolers during Children's Book Week November 13-19, 2006. Governor Kathleen Sebelius is Honorary Chair for the second year!  Check out the website at www.kansasreadstokids.org.

Vikki Jo Stewart, Special Projects Director, State Library of Kansas
“Servant leaders use their gifts and talents to create a civil, compassionate world for all.”

Clark-Heiny

Today’s PTA is facing leadership challenges every day. Let’s look at our membership drive for example. Do we set up a table, place membership cards there, have a money box close by and place a willing volunteer there to promote your PTA? If so you are like the majority of PTAs around this country. Not that any of these things are wrong, but where was the planning? Did your board present the units goals to the potential members? Did they show how strong your leadership is and how that new person could become involved? Listed below are some attributes of 21st Century leaders and how they can pertain to PTA.

21st Century leaders:
1. Are Servant leaders:
To lead is to serve others
2. Serve out of personal mission:
All children deserve the best quality chance at life.
3. Develop performing communities:
Partnering with PTA for community unity.
4. Move Groups through chaos:
PTA moves through values and beliefs.
5. Are inclusive:
United we stand.
6. Foster, support creativity:
PTA’s vision is our resourcefulness.
7. Use consensus:
Buildings a unit through harmony and compromise.
8. Build Collaboration:
Through alliances PTA can move mountains.
9. Lead to a shared vision:
If PTA dreams it, it can become real.
10. Facilitate from their chairs:
PTA can make it easy to be involved.
11. Are change agents:
PTA puts children first!

Review this 21st Century leaders menu and see what is missing in your PTA. Don’t just gather names on a paper and continue with a laminated plan. Build a PTA everyone can be proud of. Build 21st Century leaders.

Debbie Taylor, Leadership

Give Your Child A Boost
Kansas law requires children ages 4, 5, 6 and 7 be secured in a booster seat.

A new child passenger safety law in Kansas designed to enhance the safety of young passengers now requires that all children ages 4, 5, 6 and 7 to ride in a booster seat unless:

- the child weighs more than 80 pounds, or
- is taller than 4 feet 9 inches, or
- only a lap belt is available

Children who meet the above height and weight criteria must be protected by a seat belt. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children in the 4 through 7 age range. Seat belts are made to fit adults and do not protect children properly. Booster seats work by raising a child up so that the lap and shoulder belt are positioned safely. Booster seats reduce the risk of injury by 59% as compared to using only seat belts.

When securing children in a booster seat, drivers should make sure the shoulder belt is snug across the chest and rests flat across the center of the collarbone. The shoulder belt should never be placed behind a child’s back or under the arm. Always follow the instructions provided with your seat and vehicle. For additional information on how to properly secure children in booster seats, visit www.kansasboosterseat.org.

The booster seat should follow your child. Make sure carpools, child care providers, family, and friends have access to your child’s booster seat. For more child safety tips go to www.kansassafekids.org.

Model Unit bylaws were included on the Summer Packet #2 CD. If you didn't receive the CD and need an electronic or a hard copy sent to you, please contact the Kansas PTA office.
School Care for Kids with Diabetes

A growing number of children and adolescents have diabetes and require care at school to ward off serious short- and long-term complications. In an effort to ensure that students with diabetes are safe and healthy at school, PTA passed an important resolution at the 2006 National PTA Convention: Recognition and Care of School-Age Children with Diabetes. The resolution sets out a best practices model for school diabetes care, urging that all school personnel receive general training on diabetes and that every school have at least two staff members trained to perform essential diabetes care.

Every November, during American Diabetes Month, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) works to increase public awareness about the seriousness of diabetes and the risks associated with this disease. The ADA has created resources (http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy-and-legalresources/discrimination/school.jsp) to enable parents, school nurses, teachers, and other school staff members to provide necessary care to children with diabetes and effect needed policy change at the state and local levels.

2006–2007 Reflections Program
Theme = “My Favorite Place”

Every PTA* should participate in Reflections
* must be a PTA unit in good standing

Designed to enhance rather than replace a quality arts education, the Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts. This PreK through 12th grade program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition.

Five Reasons to Run the Reflections Program:

1. Students need more opportunities to create works of art for fun and recognition – the Reflections Program provides an outlet for students to explore creatively what they are learning in the classroom.
2. The Reflections Program is run by parent volunteers; therefore providing another opportunity to involve parents in their children’s education.
3. Participation in the Reflections Program gives students a chance to experiment in these arts’ areas: literature, musical composition, photography, visual arts, dance choreography and film/video production.
4. When children express themselves through words, pictures, music and other art media they grow intellectually – they learn to analyze their thoughts and feelings.
5. The Reflections Program helps parents recognize, support, and enhance the continuous self-discovery process of their children.

Source: National PTA

Phoebe Apperson Hearst—National PTA Excellence in Education Partnership Award

Goal: To recognize a local PTA whose collaborative efforts with parents, families, educators, and community members promote parent/family involvement in ongoing programs that encourage student success.

The national winner will:

- Receive two expense-paid trips, one for the PTA president or designee and one for a representative of the collaborative group, to the Annual National PTA Convention.
- Participate in convention activities as requested
- Be featured in National PTA publications
- Receive $2,000 for a PTA program promoting parent involvement

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

Kansas PTA Postmark Deadline: Friday, February 9, 2007 to Kansas PTA Vice President Education Services or Kansas PTA Arts in Education Chairman.

For More Information: http://www.pta.org/local_leadership_subprogram_1116958628468.html

Important Kansas Postmark Deadlines for Reflections entries:

Tuesday, January 9, 2007 to the Local PTA unit chairman and Tuesday, January 23, 2007 to the Council President (if your PTA unit is not part of a council, entries are due to the Region Vice President and if your region does not have a VP – send entries to the Kansas PTA VP of Education Services – or Arts in Education chairman)

Important Kansas Postmark Deadlines for Reflections entries:

Budget and plan NOW to send current and future leaders to the Kansas PTA Legislative Conference (Feb. 12th in Topeka) and the Kansas PTA Convention (April 20-22nd in Overland Park).

- These are legitimate PTA expenses. Attending training ensures that your leaders have the most current information & they are wonderful networking opportunities.

- Submit State and National portion of dues monthly to Kansas PTA. Your members are technically not members until that has been done.

- Per your bylaws – to be a unit in good standing and to participate in Kansas PTA or National PTA awards, contests or programs you must have your bylaws approved by Kansas PTA at least every 3 years. Every PTA in good standing is a 501(c)(3) and the IRS looks to make sure you are following your bylaws and your mission. Model unit bylaws were included in the Kansas PTA Summer Packet #2. Contact the Kansas PTA office if you need them sent to you in a different format. Please let us know if you need any help or have any questions.

Important Reminders
Easy Fundraising only for PTA Schools

Participate in Office Depot’s Recycling Program and Earn $2 per Recyclable Cartridge!

Type this link into your browser and it will enable you to register: www.officedepot.com/recyclecartridges

Please note there are 3 steps to registering for the program:

1. Register for an Office Depot Customer ID number and make sure you keep your Office Depot Customer ID number, login and password in a file that's easily accessible*

2. Then, register your PTA School to participate in the Recycling Program (you'll receive a separate PTA ID # and password to check your program status) and,

3. Order your recycling collection boxes using your Office Depot Customer ID number. You must use this ID Number to order your boxes or your school will not receive credit. A promotional kit with posters will also be sent to you with your initial shipment of the collection boxes.

*In order to register for the program please indicate payment type of credit card--you don't need to put in a credit card number at this point. To process an order through the Office Depot website (even for the FREE Boxes) a credit card number does need to be entered in (even though this is a FREE program, the system still requires that a credit card number be submitted in order to process the order.) Your credit card will not be charged (you'll see the $0.00 total at the bottom of the order.) There is a box on the checkout page that says 'Save my credit card for future checkout." DO NOT check this box -- your credit card number will not be saved.

You'll also notice there is a lock and key at the bottom of the website. This indicates that the Office Depot Website is secure and your credit card information safe.

Your school will receive $2 credit for each recyclable laser and ink jet cartridge sent in to the recycling center. The only cartridges not eligible for payment* are Canon and Epson Ink Tanks (they are not able to be recycled) but we will dispose of them for you.

30 days after the end of the quarter, you'll receive payment in the form of an Office Depot Money Card. The money card will be sent to your school address with the mailing label saying Attention PTA President.

Good Luck with your Recycling and Fundraising efforts. Contact Office Depot at PTASupport@officedepot.com with any questions.

Source: Office Depot PTA Support

2006 National PTA Leadership Conference

Pictured (left to right): Chuck Saylors (National PTA Secretary/Treasurer), Jan Long (Kansas PTA President-Elect), Laura Kaiser (Kansas PTA President), Anna Weselak (National PTA President), Tammy Bartels (Kansas PTA Vice-President of Membership & Organizational Services), and Jan Harp Domene (National PTA President-Elect)

More information about this conference held on 9/29-10/1, and the Emerging Minority Leadership Conference (attended by Peggy Davis, Shirlyn Richardson and J.D. Rios) will be in the next Bulletin issue.

Citizenship Contest Winners To Be Recognized at Legislative Conference

Kansas PTA Citizenship Contest essay and poetry winners at the state level will be recognized at the 2007 PTA State Legislative Conference in Topeka on Monday, February 12th. The theme for this year was “It Is Important to Vote Because…”. The Governor’s office has been contacted to participate in presenting the awards. Tours of the state capitol will also be available.

Thank you to all units that participated in this very worthwhile project! We look forward to hearing from our students about the importance of voting!

If you do not have a Kansas PTA Region VP and your Citizenship Contest Entries therefore cannot be judged at the Regional Level, they may be sent directly to:

Nancy Ryan, Citizenship Contest Committee
9810 Rosewood Drive
Overland Park, KS 66207
Questions? Call 913-341-5378 or email nancyr31@swbell.net

Source: Office Depot PTA Support
Committee on Ways and Means

The Pension Protection Act of 2006

Detailed Summary of Charitable Provisions
(select sections excerpted below):

OVERVIEW
The bill contains a charitable giving incentives package and a charitable reform package. It is important to note that the bill does not contain controversial Senate charitable reform provisions that have drawn bipartisan concern, such as the mandatory payout requirements applicable to donor advised funds and supporting organizations and the 100 percent excise tax on certain life insurance contracts in which a charitable organization has an interest.

CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVES
The bill contains a charitable giving incentives package designed to encourage charitable donations.

Modification of Recordkeeping Requirements for Certain Charitable Contributions
The provision requires that in the case of a charitable contribution of money, regardless of the amount, the donor must maintain a cancelled check, bank record or receipt from the donee organization showing the name of the donee organization, the date of the contribution, and the amount of the contribution.

Notification Requirement for Exempt Organizations
The provision requires certain exempt organizations to file an annual notice with the IRS containing basic contact and financial information. The requirement applies to organizations that currently do not have an annual filing requirement because their gross receipts are less than $25,000.

The provision extends the present-law public disclosure requirements applicable to Form 990 to the unrelated business income tax returns of Section 501(c)(3) organizations.

Kansas PTA notes: What does this mean for PTAs?
- President Bush signed this legislation in August. It became effective immediately.
- The “Notification Requirement for Exempt Organizations” means that for PTAs who do not have an annual filing requirement because their gross receipts are less than $25,000, will now be required to complete a “form.” The “form” has not been developed by the IRS yet. However, if this “form” is not filed for 3 consecutive years – the PTA unit will have to refile for tax exemption!
- 990T was not part of public records – it is now - with the signing of this legislation

National PTA will have an article regarding this in the December/January Our Children and in the Local Leaders e-newsletter. Kansas PTA will share updated information via the Bulletin.

Sharing Best Practices with Each Other

There is a strong need/desire for PTAs to share programs and best practices with other PTAs. Please submit those ideas/practices to Laura Kaiser and/or Pam Wills. We will include as many as possible in our upcoming issues.

Possible topics include:
- Healthy fundraisers for lower socio-economic areas
- Ways to increase attendance at PTA meetings
- Ways that you have increased membership
- Successful programs involving healthy lifestyles, safety and/or parent involvement
- Ways that you have promoted (and grown) the Citizenship and/or Reflections Programs
**PARENTING WITH LOVE AND LOGIC IN KANSAS**

Join America’s parenting experts: Jim Fay and Dr. Charles Fay for a day of fun, and learn easy-to-use techniques for parenting kids of all ages.

**Saturday, January 20, 2007**
**Morning Session: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
**Afternoon Session: 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
$30 per session

Valley View United Methodist Church
Overland Park, KS 66212
www.loveandlogic.com

**Important Information About Video Games, in Time for Holiday Shopping**

Computer and video games on the market today are created for players of differing ages and maturity levels. Some games have content that may not be suitable for children. Many parents want help in guiding their children away from objectionable content and toward games that are appropriate for them to play. One tool to help parents select computer and video games for their children is the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) ratings that are found on nearly all computer and video game packages.

According to the Federal Trade Commission, an adult is involved in the purchase of a video game 83 percent of the time. The holidays are coming soon, and children may ask for video games that are unfamiliar to the family members who are purchasing them. Therefore, educating parents about video game ratings is a crucial step. That’s why PTA has teamed up with the ESRB to develop and distribute brochures containing information to help parents understand the ESRB rating system and content descriptors and choose games that are right for their family. All state PTA leaders, state PTA offices, council/district PTAs, and local PTAs will receive a supply of these brochures. PTA leaders can share these brochures at meetings and with fellow parents in the community. Visit [http://www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org) in early November to find out more and to download a free Web banner that is ready to place on your website to help share this information.

**Source: National PTA- e-newsletter – PTA Partners in Leadership (Oct 2006)**

**Kansas PTA’s Newest Collaborative Organization – Kansas Action for Children (KAC)**

It is a pleasure to announce that the Kansas PTA Executive Committee voted in October to include Kansas Action for Children (KAC) as a collaborative organization. “The mission of Kansas Action for Children is to advocate for policies and programs that ensure and improve the physical, emotional, and educational well-being of all Kansas children and youth. KAC is an independent and nonpartisan voice on their behalf, working to ensure that Kansas children have the best opportunities in the nation to grow and thrive.” Find out more on their website: [www.kac.org](http://www.kac.org).

**Kansas Parent Information Resource Center Refunded!**

The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) is excited to announce that we were successful in our new bid to receive funding again to be the official Kansas PIRC. We are looking forward to an even stronger partnership with the KS PTA in accomplishing all the goals and objectives of the KPIRC, which will include soliciting information from you via surveys to help us meet the needs of KS parents. As in the past, we will continue to provide you with resources and information on parent involvement and ways that parents can support their children’s learning and success in school, [http://www.kpirc.org](http://www.kpirc.org).

In sharing information about the KPIRC with your school you will be helping your school to meet a requirement found under Title I, Section 1118 of NCLB that says, “In a State where a parental information and resource center is established to provide training, information and support to parents and individuals who work with local parents, local educational agencies (school districts), and schools receiving assistance under this part, each local educational agency or school that receives assistance under this part and is located in the State shall assist parents and parental organizations by informing such parents and organizations of the existence and purpose of such centers.” In other words, it the responsibility of your school to notify parents of the existence and services of the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center.

Please check out our website – [www.kpirc.org](http://www.kpirc.org) – for information about NCLB and other parent resources.

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

**Note from Kansas PTA:** PTAs across the country advocated for the funding of the PIRCs and this funding cycle the federal government generally only funded one PIRC per state. Please note the information in the article above regarding surveys. **We really need everyone’s help in getting parents to complete the surveys either in hard copy or online at [www.kpirc.org](http://www.kpirc.org). This is important baseline data that KPIRC needs to be in compliance with its grant. Thank you very much!!!
2007 Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Program

**Purpose:** To enhance arts education for students in the classroom or other learning environments through activities; materials; introduction of new technologies, techniques, or methods; visiting artists; or programs.

**Description:** 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.

**Deadline:** Completed applications must be received by the National PTA office on or before May 1, 2007


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National Family Week: November 19-25, 2006

Thousands of people throughout the United States will celebrate healthy families and communities during the 38th annual National Family Week, taking place during Thanksgiving week, November 19-25.

Alliance for Children and Families’ National Family Week celebrates the belief that strong families are at the center of strong communities. Everyone has a role to play in making families successful, including neighborhood organizations, businesses, non-profits, policymakers, and families themselves.

**What can PTA do?**
- PTA members can reach out to families in the community who are not yet involved with PTA—send a note or make a phone call to introduce themselves and invite members of the family to attend any upcoming PTA functions.
- Consider a “welcome” basket project to greet all families who enroll new children at your school. Involve all families to encourage the creation of these mini-welcome baskets which can contain small goodies from local businesses, community health center contact information, school directories and calendars, club and sports team schedules, PTA membership information, and any specialty donations that you receive. Ask the school office to help by providing these to new families as they enroll their students.
- Hold a family night function at school featuring interactive games, food, and other fun activities. Appreciate diversity among families and have games, food, etc. from the cultures that are represented in your school.
- Send thank you cards to all families in the school to thank them for all they do for their children.
- Present a National Family Week Advocacy Award at a special meeting or conference to an individual who has worked to strengthen the lives of children and families. A professionally designed certificate will include the name of your recipient and is available at no charge from the Alliance for Children and Families.
- Create a list of ideas that families can do in order to promote National Family Week in their home.

For more ideas and resources visit [http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org](http://www.nationalfamilyweek.org)

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Tell Us What You Think of the Back-to-School Kit!

National PTA wants to know how you’ve used the 2006 Back-to-School kit, what your opinion of the kit is, and what improvements you suggest. Your feedback will help us make the kit better for 2007. Plus, you could win a $250 American Express gift card to use for your school or yourself!

Go to [http://www.pta.org/bts_survey](http://www.pta.org/bts_survey) to complete the survey. Input from local PTAs is very valuable in planning for 2007 and beyond.

**Source:** National PTA- e-newsletter – PTA Partners in Leadership (Oct 2006)

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Office Depot coupons just for PTAs coming your way—please share with your members!

Office Depot will be sending a flyer to all state and local PTA leaders. These flyers contain valuable coupons valid from November 26th through December 24th. They are anticipating a November 15th delivery to give PTAs a chance to photocopy the coupons and distribute them to their members. The coupons can be used for personal as well as PTA purposes.
State Officers

President ...........................................Laura Kaiser 
lkgaiser@swbell.net
President-Elect ......................................Jan Long 
janlong1@cox.net
VP of Membership/Organizational Services..Tammy Bartels 
racefan@sunflower.com
VP of Education Services .......................Kim Frielings 
kfrielings@kc.rr.com
VP of Advocacy/Public Relations ............Debbie Lawson 
Debbie@burlislawson.com
Secretary .....................................Kathy Richardson 
kck_kat@hotmail.com
Treasurer .......................................Vicky Needham 
BJFTbirds@aol.com

Region Vice-Presidents

Region 1
Region 2
Region 3 .........................................Jackie Waters 
puddles73@aol.com
Region 4 .........................................Jan Frank 
janeille@cox.net
Region 5
Region 6 .........................................Chris Akin 
powercatmom@everestkc.net
Region 7 .........................................Patty Jurich 
Paj36@hotmail.com
Region 8 .........................................Joni Etherington 
kcetherington@kc.rr.com

Consultants/Committee Appointments

*Bylaws Review Supervisor.........................Ernie Goerend
*Citizenship.............................................Nancy Ryan 
nancy31@swbell.net
Immediate Past President .........................Peggy Davis 
KsPTAPeggyDavis@aol.com
*Parliamentarian ...................................Gaila Hein
*Website .............................................Lu Bever 
lub@ptasonline.org

*Council Presidents

*Blue Valley .......................................Tracey Meade 
tmeade@intervocative.com
*DeSoto .............................................Peg Newton 
pegpta@yahoo.com
*Kansas City .......................................Beth Brown 
brown70@hotmail.com
*Salina ..............................................Sharalyn Davis 
ksdavis74@sbcglobal.net
*Shawnee Mission ................................Cynthia Jarrold 
cjarrold@sbcglobal.net
*Turner .............................................Sheila Bunnell 
bbynki@aol.com
*Wichita

*Office Secretary

*Sharon Julius ......................................715 S.W. Tenth., Topeka 66612 
ks_office@pta.org, 785-234-5782, ks_office@pta.org

Kansas PTA Board of Managers

State Chairmen

Arts in Education & Awards
Bulletin Editor ......................................Pam Wills 
dpwills@att.net
2007 Convention ..................................Tammy Bartels 
racefan@sunflower.com
Health & Wellness ..............................Peg Newton 
pegpta@yahoo.com
Inclusiveness/Diversity
Leadership ........................................Debbie Taylor 
ltyaylor@hoytontys.net
Membership (Interim Chair) ....................Tammy Bartels 
racefan@sunflower.com
Parent Involvement .............................Shirlyn Richardson 
Shirlyn.Richardson@prl.net.com
PTA Shop/Meeting Assistant ..................Sheila Bunnell 
bbynki@aol.com
Publicity/Marketing .............................Andrea Burton 
kokopella@cox.net
Representative of Council Presidents ......Beth Brown 
brown70@hotmail.com
Resource Development .......................Gail Vertz 
gv7@juno.com
State Legislative
State Extension (interim) ......................Tammy Bartels 
racefan@sunflower.com

* Not a board position.
November, 2006
12-18 ... American Education Week (see pg. 5)
19-25 ... National Family Week (see pg. 14)

January, 2007
15 ... Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
15 ... Jan-Feb Bulletin mailed

February, 2007
Black History Month
12 ... Kansas PTA Legislative Conference—Topeka
17 ... Founder’s Day

March, 2007
Parenting Awareness Month
2 ... NEA’s Read Across America

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)