Greetings from Kansas State PTA President

~ Monica Crowe

Hello KS PTA members,
My name is Monica Crowe and I am proud to be serving as your State President for 2017-2019. Our legislative team has been hard at work meeting and greeting with our legislators already, and we have a new Governor, Mr. Jeff Colyer M. D. The legislative team is working to get a meeting with him. We want him to know that we are here to help “Our Kids” when and where we can. We also have three board members that will travelling to Washington DC the second week of March for LegCon to speak with our Representative’s there as well.

This year’s Convention is going to be a little different. We are joining forces with Missouri PTA and doing the first combined convention. The Call to convention has gone out recently, so we hope that you make plans on attending this historical event. Please remember that Convention is Training and as such it should be a covered expense in your budget. The Logo for our convention is “we Kan do MOre together”. I hope to see lots of familiar faces and new faces as we come together to support the Mission and purposes of PTA. We have a great line up of workshops, a vendor fair, wonderful keynote speakers and a chance to partner with a great group of people from across the State line. Who knows how much we can accomplish if we work together. PLEASE Join us in making PTA History.

I also would like to take just moment to tell you that KS PTA was asked to provide a banner that would either hang on the fences or in the halls of MSD High School in Parkland Fl. To show our support for this school, just like we did the Snowflakes for Sandy Hook. I am proud to say that our amazing and creative team did just that. Now we have to help those awesome students spread the message of NEVER AGAIN!

Remember that you can turn in memberships all year long, so many times we do a membership drive at the start of school but we need to be asking people to join all year long. If you have an active PTA, try have a table set up at every event where people can join your PTA. It’s the best way they can show their support for your school!

Monica Crowe
Honorary Life Membership

Founder’s Day is a great time to honor someone special with an Honorary Life Membership! The Honorary Life Membership in Kansas PTA is an honor bestowed upon an individual by a unit or council in appreciation for outstanding service in PTA or to children and youth. The presentation of an Honorary Life Membership is a special occasion and may be made at any time. It is especially popular to make the presentation at the Founders Day meeting, the closing meeting of the year, a district meeting or at the annual state convention. When you present an Honorary Life Membership, you honor someone who has made a significant contribution to the welfare of children and youth. You also invest in the lives of numerous young people across the state who borrow from these funds to help pay for their education beyond the high school level.

Funds received from the Life Memberships go into the Kansas Future-Teacher Scholarship Fund established by the Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers in 1929 and the Teacher-Graduate Study in Education Fund. The Honorary Life Membership can be purchased at a cost of $20.00, through the Kansas PTA office. You can print the application form off of the Kansas PTA website (www.kansas-pta.org) or click here. You may also purchase a sunflower pin for an additional cost of $17.75 to present with the Life membership. Please note: The Life Membership is honorary and does not entitle the recipient to voting rights. To be an active member with voting rights, an individual must pay National, State and local unit dues each year.

~ Kansas PTA Scholarship Committee
PTA is Alive

Over the last 3 months of watching TV movies, I have come to the conclusion of something being close to a miracle. I was watching a new movie and they asked the mother to attend a PTA meeting. I thought that was awesome. The following week a mother made the reference that she was late for her shift at the PTA event. I thought wow what great advertising for PTA. Over the next 12 weeks, there were 11 PTA references in the movies. These movies were made in 2016, 2017, and 2018; all fairly new movies. PTA is alive and just waiting to grow and blossom.

I'm challenging you to get the word out there about what your PTA is doing and the advantages to being a PTA. Some ideas on getting the information out there:

⇒ Ask local realtors to include a welcome from PTA to new buyers in your school neighborhood.
⇒ Post events and happenings on your PTA facebook.
⇒ Set up the link where people can join your PTA meeting live and give feedback during the meeting.
⇒ Post happenings on your school website.
⇒ Post happenings on your town’s local TV channel.
⇒ Talk to your friends that go to a non-PTA school.
⇒ Councils can do the same thing and get more PTA’s to join the council or to start a new council in another community.

Let’s see how many schools we can get to become a PTA before convention and get them to convention. Let’s use the advertising already out there on PTA to our advantage.

~ Jackie Waters | VP of Extension

National PTA Grants Awarded to 2 Kansas Schools

National PTA has some excellent programs that PTA’s can implement in their schools. But some of them come with opportunities that make them even better... GRANTS. We could see your PTA’s name here next - you just have apply and hold your events. These PTA’s did.

◊ Congratulations to Eisenhower Middle school PTA, USD 500, in Kansas City, for being selected to receive the National PTA’s “Take Your Family to School Week Grant” for $1,000. In celebration of the National PTA’s Founder’s Day, NPTA partnered with Chrysler and Google Chromebook to provide 55 $1,000 grants to local PTA’s who commit to hosting family engagement events throughout Take Your Family to School Week, that focuses on one of three PTA programmatic themes: Health and Safety; Literacy and Digital Learning.

Eisenhower chose Digital Learning.

◊ Congratulations to Grand Star Elementary PTA, USD 231, in Gardner, for being selected to receive the 2017 National PTA STEM + Families Local Science Grant for $1,000 along with 30 other elementary and middle schools across the country who will host a Science Festival this winter and spring. In addition to the $1,000 grant they also received $400 worth of supplies, and 6 games from Think Fun. The NPTA STEM Grant is provided through the collaborative efforts of the NPTA and Bayer. NPTA’s vision is that all students have the family and community support needed to access and pursue STEM opportunities and careers.

Information is compiled from the NPTA website.

~ Patty Jurich, Kansas PTA Programs Chairman

Another Upcoming Grant to Apply for...

The National PTA Mary Lou Anderson ArtsEd Grant provides up to $1,000 in matching funds to support local PTA arts projects within their school community. Funded projects will increase access to learning opportunities in the literary, media, visual and/or performing arts for at-risk or under-served audiences. Arts projects must actively engage families and community partners to strengthen family-school partnerships. This would be great to apply for if you are going to participate in the NPTA’s Reflections Arts Program. Eligible applicants must be a PTA in good standing, as determined by the State PTA.

Application Period: April - June | Awards Announced: September | Grant Period: September - November
Stay Connected to the Advocacy Team!

That Kansas PTA Advocacy Team (The A-Team) is hard at work following all things that impact children in Kansas. This is happening not only at the State level, but also at the Federal level. Our goal is to keep you connected to timely summaries that are easy to read and understand. This is why it is essential that each PTA Unit and Council has a designated Legislative Chair (or contact) that can be signed up for the Updates and Alerts. Please send your unit’s/council’s Legislative contact to kansaspta@gmail.com and we will make sure they are in the know enough to keep your group informed. A best practice is to provide the Legislative contact 5-10 minutes at each meeting to allow for a brief summary/report.

While we want to respect your inbox, there are times during legislative sessions that require quick communication and at times a Call To Action. We will make sure to keep the designated Legislative contact up to speed on what the call to action is and will be available to answer any questions. In other words, your contact does not have to have a PhD in Government to help make an impact and keep your group informed.

Of course anyone who is interested in signing up for the A-Connection distribution can be added by request at any time. Simply send your request to be added to kansaspta@gmail.com.

Get out the Vote!

Elections may not seem like they are around the corner, but they will certainly be here before you know it. The 2018 election will include U.S. Representatives, Governor, Lt. Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Insurance, 1 State Senator (Dist 13), all 125 Kansas Representatives, State Board of Education for 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9, 7 Kansas Court of Appeals Judges as well as District Judges and District Magistrate Judges. Remember it is not too early to get the election dates on the calendar, especially if you plan to travel this fall. The Primary will be held August 7th and the General is November 6th.

The next bulletin will have more information about Voter Registration and Voter Education. In the meantime, make sure you are registered to vote! To register, go to http://www.kssos.org/elections/elections_registration.html.

Remember that PTA has certain standards the must be upheld. For a refresher, visit the Nonpartisan How To Top sheet at http://www.kansas-pta-legislative.org/sites/default/files/HowToTipNonPartisan.pdf.

This Legislative Session - 2018

The 2018 legislative session started in Topeka on January 8th. With the dust not settled yet from the October Kansas Supreme Court ruling on school funding, the only thing certain besides the need to get a budget passed, was the need to address the school finance crises. While there is a extremely long history about the topic of school funding in Kansas, this summary will focus on what is currently happening. The court ruled in the Gannon case that the new school funding law does not provide enough money and fails to allocate funds equitably. The legislature has ordered a follow up study to dig into the school finance formula and that report is scheduled to be provided by March 15, 2018. This study will likely contribute significantly to how Kansas proceeds with adjusting how public schools are funded. When the Kansas PTA Advocacy Team spoke with legislators on February 6th there was uncertainty exactly how much in additional funding would be required. With former Governor Brownback taking a new Ambassador role, Jeff Colyer was sworn in on January 31st as the 47th Governor of Kansas. February 13th, he announced his appointment for the new Lt Governor, Tracey Mann. Kansas PTA has yet to meet with Governor Colyer but we plan to get something scheduled as soon as possible to speak on behalf of Kansas children.

Kansas PTA Keys to Leadership Passport

Good PTA leaders participate in ongoing training and PTA activities at all levels and continually update their leadership skills. The Kansas PTA Keys to Leadership Passport is designed to encourage training and leadership development for all Kansas PTA members, recognize the individual leadership achievements of PTA members and encourages Kansas PTA members to broaden their scope of service. You will find the passport very helpful in your endeavors to become a better leader at the unit, council, region and state levels. Remember to send your Keys to Leadership Passport into the Kansas State PTA office by March 27, 2018 so you can receive your award and pin at Convention. If you haven’t already gotten a Passport, please contact the Kansas State PTA office at 1-888-311-5782 for your Keys to Leadership Passport. Challenge all your local, council & state officers to participate. Help Kansas PTA build strong leaders for our children and communities. Make this 2017-2018 the year of accomplishment and recognition. ~ Patty Jurich, Kansas PTA NLDC Chairperson
Parent/teacher conferences are in full swing, with the 2017-2018 school year nearing the 4th quarter, chances are that if your special needs child is in school, you are attending a meeting with their teacher(s) soon. With a plethora of IEP meetings throughout the year, your child’s teacher may have decided you don’t need to attend another conference. But if you do...what questions are you asking your child’s teacher? 

Alongside the regular questions, like asking how your child is doing in class, here are some suggestions you may find helpful. 

♦ Be specific – instead of a general check-up, ask if your child is struggling with anything, either academically or socially. **Is there a subject that your child enjoys learning about? Is there one that they find more challenging? Ask how you can support your child outside school hours to help them master the topics that are tougher for them. **Are they interacting with other students? How is the teacher encouraging their collaboration with other students? Is there someone your child particularly likes/dislikes?  
♦ Has the teacher identified anything that causes your child additional stress? If they have, ask how that stress is being relieved. 
♦ Communicate any changes at home – good or bad - that may be affecting your child. 
♦ Lastly, ask your child’s teacher if they have any advice. 

Justin Baeder, Director of the Principal Center, whose mission is to help schools build capacity for instructional leadership, recommends reaching out to the teacher for input because “…teachers have worked with dozens or hundreds of students, and many have sage advice to share.”

~ Cindy Villa | Special Education Chair 

*From an article at Care.com

Greetings from Vikki Mullins, State Treasurer  
Hi, all! My name is Vikki “Sis” Mullins and I am excited to be your new treasurer! I have served on executive boards in the Turner School District at the elementary, middle, high school, and council levels, in addition to serving a two year term as Arts & Awards Chair for Kansas PTA and as the adult mentor for Kansas PTA’s Youth Advisory Committee. I work at a fantastic company in Kansas City, KS, Wolcott Foods, that provides home delivered meals to clients with traumatic brain injuries and other disabilities. I have one son, TJ, an Eagle Scout who is also deeply involved with several aspects of PTA and other community service efforts. I also serve on the Turner Days Committee and as a member of the Turner Foundation, but my passion is my 13 year involvement with Bikers Against Child Abuse® where I serve as a child primary contact & patched member with the Kaw River, Kansas Chapter.  

One of my term goals is to simplify the documentation we use for treasury records. I firmly believe that organization is key to success and we get there by having clean, complete, easy to understand records. I’m eager to hear your feedback on putting it all together! I’ll be reaching out to experienced Treasurers over the next couple months and asking for you to share the documentation you currently use in the Treasury process. We’ll compare them and come up with one solid set of tools that will hopefully make future Treasurers jobs easier. I’m also very excited about an event that we are planning for this summer. We’re still solidifying details, but it will be a one day, one stop shop, that offers Treasurer’s training, treasury audits, tax assistance, budget planning, and other items that will have you leaving knowing your PTA is already in good standing in the first month of the fiscal year. Our tentative date is July 14, 2018. I hope you’ll plan to join us! Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. I won’t always know the answers, but I promise to try to help you find them. You can reach me by email at ksptamom@aol.com or by text at (913) 523-6609.

Introducing TJ Villa, Youth Advisory Committee Chair 
Hi, everybody! My name is TJ Villa and this is my first year serving on the Kansas PTA Board of Managers. I have been doing PTA in the Turner School District with my family since grade school. I graduated from Turner High School in May of 2017 and I am currently the President of Turner Elementary PTA. I have also been involved with Boy Scouts since I was in 1st grade, working as an instructor at Theodore Naish Scout Camp for three years, and hold the rank of Eagle Scout in Troop 396 out of Shawnee, KS. I served two years on the Kansas PTA Youth Advisory Committee and I am nervous, but confident that I can be a good mentor for the YAC kids this year.  

YAC is a student led organization that helps to bring awareness to everyday problems that teens face and strategies to overcome them. YAC’s goal is to get students involved, self-advocating, and make parents & educators aware of the issues teens face and how they can help. For students in middle school – high school that are interested in getting involved, we would love to have you join us at one of our upcoming meetings.  

The biggest thing that YAC does every year is host a workshop at the state convention. This year the presentation will be on cell phone safety. This class idea came directly from the people that attended the class at last year’s convention. The class we are offering at convention will be called “What every parent needs to know about your child’s cellphone: A guide to parental restrictions, apps, & other cellular secrets”.  

YAC Meeting Schedule:  
Tuesday, Feb 20 – Lackman Library | Tuesday, Mar 13 – Antioch Library | Tuesday, Apr 3 – Lackman Library | Tuesday, Apr 24 – Antioch Library
Arts & Awards

It’s a thrilling time for the Kansas PTA Arts & Awards team! Right now, our Reflections entries are undergoing the judging rounds. We are very excited by the talent of our Kansas kids. Please be sure to mark your calendars to join us at the Kansas PTA Arts Awards Assembly on Saturday, April 14th, 2018 at the Johnson County Main Library. At this time, we’d also like to celebrate our 2017-2018 Citizenship winners.

### Citizenship - Essay

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Award of Excellence</th>
<th>Winner</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trystan Middleton</td>
<td>Santa Fe Trail</td>
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<td>5th</td>
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<td>Leticia Grado</td>
<td>Junction</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Annie Caswell</td>
<td>Trailwood</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
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<td>Emily DelRio</td>
<td>TSGA</td>
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<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Elina Vargas</td>
<td>Indian Hills Middle School</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Morgan Dustin</td>
<td>Indian Woods Middle School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Catherine Esrey</td>
<td>SM East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Stephanie Monetes-Sanchez</td>
<td>SM South</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Lillian Dozier</td>
<td>SM East</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Nathan Del Rio</td>
<td>SM South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Award of Merit</td>
<td>Joseph Ward</td>
<td>SM South</td>
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### Citizenship - Poetry

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<td>5th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ella Watson</td>
<td>Riverview</td>
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<td>5th</td>
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<td>Matthew Bums</td>
<td>Brookwood</td>
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<td>Nick VanDeventer</td>
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<td>Caleb Harris</td>
<td>Westridge Middle School</td>
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<td>Campbell Wood</td>
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<td>9th</td>
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<td>Ciara Diaz</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Sara Miriani</td>
<td>SM East</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th</td>
<td>Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Claire Nash</td>
<td>SM South</td>
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Don’t forget the other awards that your students, teachers, administrators, and unit leaders are eligible for. Below is a snapshot, be sure to get your nominations in before the deadline.

- **Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award** The purpose of this award is to honor someone who has given exemplary service to the children and youth of Kansas. Any PTA member, unit, council or region may submit nominations. All submissions are due to Kansas PTA President Elect, Lauri DeNooy, by March 16, 2018. Nominations may be submitted via email to lauri.denooy@gmail.com or by mail to the Kansas PTA office. All entries should be postmarked by March 16, 2018. Nomination forms are available [here](#).

- **Outstanding Educator Award** All submissions are due to Kansas VP of Member Services, Rachel Russell, by March 16, 2018. Nominations may be submitted via email to [rgabby826@gmail.com](mailto:rgabby826@gmail.com) or by mail to the Kansas PTA office. All entries should be postmarked by March 10, 2018. Nomination forms are available [here](#).

- **Outstanding Student Award** All submissions are due to Kansas VP of Member Services, Rachel Russell, by March 16, 2018. Nominations may be submitted via email to [rgabby826@gmail.com](mailto:rgabby826@gmail.com) or by mail to the Kansas PTA office. All entries should be postmarked by March 10, 2018. Nomination forms are available [here](#).

On behalf of everyone in Kansas PTA, we thank you for helping us celebrate our wonderful students, educators, families, and communities!

~ Janell Keltner, Arts & Awards Chairman
Kansas PTA Board Roster

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Resolutions Angie Gunion / Mary Ricketts

Resource Development
YAC (Youth Advisory Committee) TJ Villa

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Region 3 Morgan Nistas
Region 4 Taryn Meier
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*Council Presidents
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Turner Vikki Mullins 913-523-6609 ksptamom@aol.com

Office Secretary Natalie Schweda 785-234-5782 kansaspta@gmail.com

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February 2018

If you are no longer a PTA president, please notify the Kansas PTA State Office. Forward this and all mailings immediately to your successor.