

Facts about Membership

Did you know that nationwide, approximately 18 percent of PTA members join in January and February? Running membership campaigns more frequently reminds your members that membership is everyone's business, especially if you weave membership into programs, activities, and general PTA work as well. It is not too late to have a membership drive in January because parents can make a big impact in the current year and are eager to look forward to next year.

Membership growth is a sign that your PTA is a vital and relevant organization that is making a difference in your community. If your PTA is an effective, respected, and fun association, people will be eager to join.

Here are some ways that you can promote Membership

- Set up a membership table at every PTA and school event.
- Regularly include articles about membership (and a membership form) in your newsletter.
- Publish your current membership count in your newsletter.
- Use Membership materials from the National PTA website (www.pta.org).
- Use your website, email, Facebook, Twitter, etc. to talk about what your PTA is doing.
- Contact other schools to see what are they are doing to maintain their membership.
- Create a Membership Recruitment and Retention Manual.
- Contact your State Membership Chair, or the VP of Member Services, or your Field Service Representative for assistance.
- Always follow up with individuals that have questions or concerns about the PTA or the school.
- Invite everyone who is interested in the children in that school to a PTA/PTSA Meeting or to an event.

THE MOST IMPORTANT WAY IS TO ASK ONE QUESTION.

“WOULD YOU JOIN OUR PTA/PTSA?”

JOSIE GUTIERREZ

VP OF MEMBER SERVICES

ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS:

Save the Date - Kansas
PTA Convention 2015
Page 2

National PTA
Legislative Conf.
Recognize Excellence
Page 3

School of Excellence
Page 4

Smart Snacks
Page 5

Take Your Family To
School Week
Page 6

Kansas PTA Board
Roster
Page 7



OUR CHILDREN
OUR FUTURE
KANSAS PTA

— TOPEKA, KS 2015 —

Save the Date
April 24 -26, 2015
Kansas PTA Convention



2015 National PTA Legislative Conference

March 10-12, 2015

Crystal Gateway Marriott

1700 Jefferson Davis Highway

The National PTA Legislative Conference (LegCon) gives participants the chance to have in-depth discussions about PTA's public policy priorities through interactive workshops, keynote speakers, advocacy trainings and more.

During the conference, PTA advocates from across the country will have the opportunity to amplify their voices at the federal level by advocating on behalf of PTA and influencing lawmakers.

Attendees will also network with PTA peers and share best practices, as well as honor grassroots champions and policy leaders.

Recognize Excellence!

Recognizing volunteers, educators, students and your PTA unit is easy to do with Kansas PTA. Nomination forms were included in the Summer Packet CD (awards section) and are available on the Kansas PTA website: www.kansas-pta.org for the following awards:

- **Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award**
(for individuals)—deadline March 6, 2015
- **Outstanding Student Award**
(for individuals)—deadline March 6, 2015
- **Outstanding Educator Award**
(for individuals)—March 6, 2015
- **Marjorie Holwick Wall of Fame** (for individuals)

You can also call the Kansas PTA office for a hard copy of the award forms. Please make sure deserving educators, volunteers, and PTA units get the recognition they deserve.



Start Planning **Now to have your school participate in the
National PTA School of Excellence Program for the 2015-2016 School Year!**

The National PTA School of Excellence program is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

By participating in this program, your PTA and school will gain new ways to engage families in school decision-making, such as improvements to programs, practices, and policies related to education, health, safety or the arts.

As a **National PTA School of Excellence**, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.

**If you have not yet participated in the School of Excellence Program,
now is the perfect time to start planning!**

Enrollment for the program will open in April for the 2015-2016 school year.

Now is the time to talk to your PTA leaders, your Principal and your families about participating. By enrolling early you will have more time to survey your school community and starting working on your goals.

Things you can do now so you are prepared to enroll:

- Determine that your school community wants to participate.
- Before you enroll, determine who will be on your School of Excellence committee (your committee should reflect your school community).
- Before you enroll determine how to best survey your school's families and the best time for doing that (once you enroll you will receive access to surveys for your school Principal and your school's families).
- During the online enrollment you will need demographic information about your school community which can be obtained from your school's administration.

National PTA will open enrollment at PTA.org/Excellence April 1st, 2015. It will remain open until October 1st. Once enrolled you will receive the "Getting Started Guide," which describes program components, including your first steps to gather feedback from families and set goals with your school partner.

If you enroll in April, you will have time to survey your school community, submit those results and your goal and objective early to National PTA and be ready to implement your programs when the new school year starts.

**For more information, go to PTA.org/Excellence
Start Planning Today!**

Laura Kaiser
Family Engagement Chairman

A PTA's Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools

On July 1, 2014, the federal nutrition standards that regulate ALL foods and beverages sold in schools went into effect. These standards are specifically improving, “competitive foods”, or foods and beverages that are not sold as part of the National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program. These foods and beverages are commonly found in snack bars, school stores, vending machines, and during fundraisers. Many parents are asking questions such as - how does this change my child's school day and what does this mean for fundraisers? While these answers aren't simple, we do have information that will make implementing these standards easier.

Smart Snacks are regulated by the United States Department of Agriculture that has given states the authority to create a policy regarding fundraising exemptions. In Kansas, the State Board of Education has determined that each school group may hold one exempted fundraiser per semester which may last no more than two days. Although some states are allowing exempted fundraisers, it is important to keep in mind that children are seeing a healthier school day through improved nutrition and a greater focus on physical activity which parents, students, and school faculty and staff should support.

The Smart Snacks guidelines set limits on total calories, sugar, fat, and sodium on foods and beverages sold in schools. Reducing the consumption of saturated fat, sugar, and sodium in children's diets lead to healthier lives. To improve the nutritional value of foods and beverages and to support nutrition guidelines, many schools and PTA's have transitioned to healthier celebrations, events, and fundraisers. To ensure compliance with the nutrition standards, PTA's are incorporating a nutrition and health focus on their meetings, events, and fundraisers. Many PTA's have incorporated healthier snacks into their school snack bars and school stores which have seen an increase in revenue with these changes. Taste tests are popular with the students because it allows them to try different foods while also allowing parents, teachers, and school staff to learn what the students do and do not like. PTA's are also transitioning to non-food or healthy fundraisers.

PTA's can greatly help in successfully implementing new federal nutrition guidelines. They can host events that contain healthier foods and beverages. PTA's can also incorporate physical activity events into their schools and healthy practices during their meetings. Sending a consistent message to children that health is important at home and school through healthy eating and physical activity will ensure a commitment to a strong, healthy life. PTA's can ensure that message is portrayed throughout all school and community events.



**PTA Take
Your
Family to
School
Week!**



**FEBRUARY
16-20, 2015**



FAMILIES



SCHOOLS



**STUDENT
SUCCESS**

This year's **PTA Take Your Family to School Week** aims to build stronger partnerships among families, schools and communities.

Students with engaged parents are more likely to:

- Earn higher grades
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills and improved self-esteem
- Graduate and pursue postsecondary education

**Get Involved
Today!**



PTA.org/TYFTSW



Kansas PTA Board Roster

State Officers

President	Tammy Bartels	105 N Gould St., Tonganoxie, KS 66086	913-416-3302
President-Elect	Denise Sultz	9311 W 812st Terr., Overland Park, KS 66204	913-709-3916
VP Advocacy	Debbie Lawson	15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219	913-541-0806
VP Extension Services	Monica Crowe	3047 N 65th Terr., Kansas City, KS 66104	913-961-5026
VP Member Services	Josefina Gutierrez	3803 Gibbs Rd. Kansas City, KS 66106	913-787-6367
Secretary	Diana Fabac	5607 Crest Dr, Kansas City, KS 66103	913-475-7789
Treasurer	Sheila Bunnell	7028 Berry Rd., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-544-9072

Field Service Representative

Region 1 Field Service Rep.	Allen Bradley	1516 N 85th Place, Kansas City, KS 66112	913-208-8762
Region 2 Field Service Rep.	Lauri DeNooy	6615 W 73rd St, Overland Park, KS 66204	913-548-7277
Region 3 Field Service Rep.	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Region 4 Field Service Rep.	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Region 5 Field Service Rep.	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Region 6 Field Service Rep.	Lauri DeNooy	6615 W 73rd St, Overland Park, KS 66204	913-548-7277
Region 7 Field Service Rep.	Sheila Bunnell	7028 Berry Rd., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-544-9072
Region 8 Field Service Rep.	Dawn Lalumondier	8907 W 82nd St., Overland Park, KS 66204	913-660-4763

State Chairman

2015 Convention Chair	Robert DeNooy	9242 Newton St., Apt 2B, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-271-6892
Arts in Education & Awards Chair	Robert DeNooy	9242 Newton St., Apt 2B, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-271-6892
Budget Committee Chair	Sarah Backer	8006 Widmer, Lenexa, KS 66215	913-706-9958
Family Engagement Chair	Laura Kaiser	5222 W 98th Terr., Overland Park, KS 66207	913-341-3078
Health and Wellness Chair	Angel Del Valle	2834 S 48th St., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-713-9226
Inclusiveness/Diversity Chair	Jose Gutierrez	3803 Gibbs Rd. Kansas City, KS 66106	913-384-3823
Male Involvement Chair	Rod Shriwise	9700 Walmer, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-271-8424
Membership Chair	Rachel Henderson	734 N 70th St., Kansas City, KS 66112	913-674-7117
PTA Store/Meeting Assistance	Julie Howard	134 N 71st Ct., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-299-4877
Military Engagement Chair	Allen Hopkins	2804 S 16th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048	913-240-9046
Resolutions Committee Chair	Lauri DeNooy	6615 W 73rd St, Overland Park, KS 66204	913-548-7277
Resource Development Chair	Debbie Lawson	15719 W. 86th St., Lenexa, KS 66219	913-541-0806
Special Education Chair	Dawn Kindred	5109 Edgehill, Kansas City, KS 66106	913-287-8714
State Bylaws Chair	Lauri DeNooy	6615 W 73rd St, Overland Park, KS 66204	913-548-7277
State Legislative Chair	Brian Hogsett	9705 Slater Lane, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-209-9620

Consultants/Committee Appointments

* Bulletin Editor	Robert DeNooy	9242 Newton St., Apt 2B, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-271-6892
* Nominating and Leadership Dev.	Jackie Waters	1417 Loring, Haysville, KS 67060	316-522-0706
* Website	Robert DeNooy	9242 Newton St., Apt 2B, Overland Park, KS 66212	913-271-6892

Council Presidents

Kansas City	Patty Jurich	3314 N 128th Ct., Kansas City, KS 66109	913-334-6051
Shawnee Mission	Linda Braly	7909 Outlook Ln., Prairie Village, KS 66208	913-449-0506
	Tash Davis	8345 Glenwood, Overland Park., KS 66212	913-558-2211
Turner	Jody Morris	4025 Locust Ave., Kansas City, KS 66106	913-530-1449

Office Support

* Office Secretary	Natalie Schweda	715 S. W. Tenth, Topeka, KS 66612	785-235-5782
--------------------	-----------------	-----------------------------------	--------------

* Not a board position

This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website @ www.kansas-pta.org

Kansas PTA State Office
715 S.W. Tenth Street
Topeka, KS 66612-1686
Phone: 1-888-311-5782 or 785-234-KPTA (5782)
Fax: 785-234-4170
kansaspta@gmail.com
www.kansas-pta.org

National PTA Headquarters
1250 N. Pitt Street
Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (800) 307-4PTA (4782)
Fax: TBA
E-mail: info@pta.org
www.pta.org

Kansas Congress of Parents and Teachers
715 SW Tenth
Topeka, KS 66612-1686

Non-Profit Organization U.S.
Postage

PAID

Topeka, Kansas
Permit No. 268

Mail To:

January - February 2015



Kansas
PTA[®]
everychild.onevoice.

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