

## Greetings from Kansas State PTA President

~ Denise Sultz

### Membership is An Invitation

When you invite someone to join your PTA have you ever started out by saying, “Would you like to get great benefits that might help your family and also contribute to the children here at our school?” Did you realize that is exactly what you are offering? You are offering an opportunity to help the children at your school with the monetary part of the dues that you keep at your location. You are also offering an opportunity to benefit these families with the discounts that PTA has to offer from national PTA vendors through the monetary part of their dues that you send for them to join the state and national association of PTA. These vendors include AARP, Boxed, Schwan’s, Good Housekeeping, Hertz, Life Lock, Lifetouch, MetLife, Quicken Loans, Staples, Sylvan’s, and Teen Safe. Starting after the first of the year, Kansas PTAs will have an additional benefit as well. Kansas has been selected to offer our local PTAs the opportunity to be pilot test schools in a new online membership management program through National PTA. These pilot schools will be allowed to have individual members sign up through a portal, will be able to allow their members to pay their membership dues using credit cards, will have automatic renewal opportunities available to their membership, and will have the opportunity to have new officer information handled thru this system. National PTA will accept these online memberships and transfer your portion of the dues to you, the Kansas PTA portion of the dues to us, and will give you access to reports giving you the new enrollee’s membership info. Please contact the Kansas PTA office at [kansaspta@gmail.com](mailto:kansaspta@gmail.com) if you want to be part of this new and exciting program!

### ESSA

Recently, I have heard people talking about education policy in the framework of waivers, teaching to the test, federal mandates, and No Child Left Behind. As of July 1, 2016, our vocabulary has changed. In December 2015, President Obama signed the new education policy into law, called ESSA, that had been adopted by Congress. This acronym stands for *Every Student Succeeds Act*. For the first time, ESSA acknowledges the critical role parents and other stakeholders play in student success. Please make sure to read the important update provided on Page 5 of this bulletin.

### YAC

Kansas PTA has a wonderful group of dedicated students who work beside us and advise us on issues that they feel are important. We call them YAC and that stands for Youth Advisory Committee. If you have a student whose age ranges from Middle School up to Senior that would like to be more involved in Advocacy work, please have them email the Kansas PTA office at [kansaspta@gmail.com](mailto:kansaspta@gmail.com).

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Greetings from your Kansas PTA Arts & Awards Team! As we are sliding into fall we thought it was time to do some important program reminders.

### **NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM**

Reflections entries are due to Field Service Representatives by December 15, 2016. The final entries representing your region should be uploaded to the [National PTA Reflections Portal](#) by the FSRs no later than January 10, 2017. Assistance with uploading is available on Mondays & Fridays through the end of the year by contacting the Kansas PTA Arts Chair at (913) 523-6609. Reflections entry forms are available [here](#).

### **Virginia Peak Outstanding Leadership Award**

All submissions are due to Kansas PTA President Elect, Monica Crowe, by March 15, 2017. Nominations may be submitted via email to [crowemonica@yahoo.com](mailto:crowemonica@yahoo.com) or by mail to the Kansas PTA office. All entries should be postmarked by March 10, 2017. Nomination forms are available [here](#).

### **Outstanding Educator Award**

All submissions are due to Kansas VP of Member Services, Sheila Bunnell, by March 15, 2017. Nominations may be submitted via email to [bbynki@aol.com](mailto:bbynki@aol.com) or by mail to the Kansas PTA office. All entries should be postmarked by March 10, 2017. Nomination forms are available [here](#).

### **Outstanding Student Award**

All submissions are due to Kansas VP of Member Services, Sheila Bunnell, by March 15, 2017. Nominations may be submitted via email to [bbynki@aol.com](mailto:bbynki@aol.com) or by mail to the Kansas PTA office. All entries should be postmarked by March 10, 2017. 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!

### **IRS Reporting Form 990 due to the IRS on November 15<sup>th</sup>!**

Please remember to submit proof of submission to Kansas PTA as soon as it is filed to remain a unit in good standing with Kansas PTA. Other items required to remain in good standing are: New Officer Form, Copy of Completed Audit (Financial Review), dues submitted to Kansas PTA monthly.

If you have any questions regarding any of these activities, please feel free to contact your Field Service Representative or the Kansas PTA Treasurer.

**Social media is a powerful tool.** There are hundreds of outlets, each with different strengths and weaknesses, and different followings. For PTA here locally, I've found that Facebook and Twitter have been the simplest for messaging and sharing Information, but feel free to use what you know for effective messaging. Facebook and Twitter can have a reach of thousands to tens of thousands, or even more if managed correctly.

From a legislative and policy perspective, with a PTA Twitter or Facebook account, we can actually "get political" and support policy that aligns with State and National PTA policy positions. PTA is non-partisan, and cannot endorse any political party or candidate for office. However, PTA can keep track of votes and statements on education policy by elected officials, and make that information available.

Twitter is useful for sharing small, concise bits of information, where Facebook is better suited for larger, more detailed information. If you can distill complex issues into a series of tweets, there is a good chance your audience will be able to understand. Twitter is nearly instantaneous, and a very good way to push out information quickly. Facebook is better suited for longer articles and more in-depth discussions.



Always be respectful when posting from PTA social media. Not everyone will agree with 100% of what PTA posts, and that is okay. It is an opportunity to learn more about perceptions and misconceptions, and where we as PTA can improve. Try to keep the heated discussions are for your own private accounts. A Facebook post or tweet is forever, despite the ability to delete them. People are always screen-capturing inflammatory statements by public officials. Don't worry if you have a type-o. If you catch it quickly, you can compose a new tweet and delete the original. If it is already getting re-tweets, just compose a follow-up with the corrected word or phrase. Facebook allows you to revise posts.

With just a little effort, you can use social media to effectively build a strong PTA voice.

**Devin Wilson**

**Kansas PTA Legislative Committee Chair**

## Language Not a Barrier for Hispanic Parents Looking to Help Children Succeed in School

CHICAGO (November 2, 2005)—For Hispanic parents, nothing is more important than family. But although research shows a direct link between parent involvement and a child's educational success, some Hispanic parents have reported that they aren't used to being involved in their children's schools. Now, despite language barriers and time constraints, Hispanic parents are breaking ground and finding it easy to get involved and, in some cases, join PTA.

**Not speaking English doesn't stop** Aurelia Carmona, 40, Mission Viejo, California, **from attending meetings or being involved.**

*"My PTA [Glen Yermo Elementary School PTA] translates some materials and meetings," said Carmona, "but I would still go even if they didn't translate anything. It's that important to me because I see how positively it affects my children. Just the fact that I'm at the school makes a difference to my children and motivates them to do better."*

Some Hispanic parents, like Maria Purata, 39, Los Fresnos, Texas, make time in their schedules on a week-by-week basis. *"The language barrier is one thing, but we can't use lack of time as an excuse. There is always time. We have to organize and plan our week,"* said Purata, who finds time once a week to visit her daughter's school while at the same time working toward a General Education Degree and helping her husband run a family business.

Other Hispanic parents are trying to break old-fashioned mentalities. *"My husband and I are trying to break out of the Latino way of thinking for our daughters, which is 'growing up, getting married, and having kids.' That's not the way I see it. We want our daughters to go to college and have careers,"* said Mireya Manzo, 32, Mission Viejo, California.

**To help more Hispanic parents** like these motivate their children to do better in school, PTA is making available the **Three for Me program**—a simple way for parents to support their children's education in the classroom and at home. By helping three hours a school year, even the busiest parents and families can help their children succeed and school environments improve. *"What's great about the **Three for Me program** is that it's in Spanish and you only need three hours for the whole year. Any Hispanic parent can do that,"* said Rick Mendiondo, a National PTA board member.

**Three for Me** hours can be completed at home and in the community. Every parent can fulfill the promise—by helping his or her child review for a test at home; by helping the school prepare for an open house, fundraiser, or festival; or by having lunch with his or her child at school.

*"There are 13 million Hispanic school-age children in the United States, and our goal is to have more and more parents benefit from PTA resources so that children succeed and learning environments improve. Parents need to get involved and help in order to accomplish that,"* said Mendiondo.

To request a free **Three for Me** brochure and promise card, please call [\(800\) 307-4782](tel:8003074782) or visit [PTA Three for Me](#). PTA has Spanish-speaking operators to help parents learn more about the program and to explain how parents can join a PTA.

About **Three for Me**, a program adopted by National PTA

**Three for Me** is a promise from a parent to a child and a promise from a parent to a school. By signing a promise card, a parent promises to volunteer three hours of his or her time to the school on behalf of his or her child. **Three for Me program resources, tips, and ideas are available at [PTA Three for Me](#).**

[#FamiliesReadTools](#)

The holidays are a magical, and stressful time for both children and adults. When taking little ones out and about investing in a good bag with a wipeable liner and keeping it packed with wipes, snacks such as crackers, dried fruit, dry cereal, bottle of water, age appropriate toy or book. If needed a stroller that is light weight and easy to fold. Keep a bottle of hand sanitizer handy to help keep the cold and flu at bay. Your little one may not be ready to do all the holiday activities that you would like for them to experience and remember this is okay. There are many educational toys and products, so I recommend do your research to find which ones will best suit your age and skill level. There are many wonderful holiday books available two of my favorites are **Mr. Willowby's Christmas Tree** by Robert Barry and **A Charlie Brown Christmas** (Peanuts)

**Happy holidays**

**Julie Howard**

**Early Childhood Chair**

## **The 2017 session of the Kansas Legislature will begin on Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 2:00 pm. Education and school finance will figure prominently in the session.**

We will be posting information before, during and after the session through Kansas PTA FB, twitter and email accounts to keep you updated. Also please check the Kansas PTA legislative tab regularly for updates. Below is a little information on the Kansas legislature as we count down to January and the start of the session.

The Kansas Legislature is composed of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The House has 125 members who are elected every two years. The Senate has 40 members and they are elected for four year terms.

**According to the Kansas Legislative website there are 30 Standing Committees in the House**— Agriculture and Natural Resources, Agriculture and Natural Resources Budget, Appropriations, Calendar and Printing, Children and Seniors, Commerce, Labor and Economic Development, Corrections and Juvenile Justice, Education, Education Budget, Elections, Energy and Environment, Federal and State Affairs, Financial Institutions, General Government Budget, Health and Human Services, Insurance, Insurance and Financial Institutions, Interstate Cooperation, Judiciary, Legislative Budget (House), Local Government, Pensions and Benefits, Rules and Journal, Social Services Budget, Taxation, Transportation, Transportation and Public Safety Budget, Utilities and Telecommunications, Veterans, Military and Homeland Security, Vision 2020.

**The Senate has 18 Standing Committees** – Agriculture, Assessment and Taxation, Commerce, Confirmation Oversight, Corrections and Juvenile Justice, Education, Ethics and Elections, Federal and State Affairs, Financial Institutions and Insurance, Interstate Cooperation, Judiciary, Local Government, Natural Resources, Organization, Calendar and Rules, Public Health and Welfare, Transportation, Utilities, Ways and Means.

**According to the Kansas Constitution in Article Six:** Education Section 6 (b) The legislature shall make suitable provision for finance of the educational interests of the State. No tuition shall be charged for attendance at any public school to pupils required by law to attend such school, except such fees or supplemental charges as may be authorized by law. The legislature may authorize the state board of regents to establish tuition, fees and charges at institutions under its supervision.

The first sentence of this section “shall make suitable provision for the finance of educational interests” is what the school finance debate has been about and has caused much reflection over the years. What is suitable funding? The Governor has asked Kansas PTA for input on school finance and we are preparing a statement after reviewing the results we received from our survey. School finance will be a topic at the forefront of this upcoming session. Please watch for more information and be ready to respond to legislative alerts when necessary.

~ **Debbie Lawson**

## Flu Prevention

There are lots of things you worry about for your kids. Helping prevent exposure to the flu virus can be simple. Use these tips so the flu virus doesn't have to be one of things you worry about this season. Once your family is vaccinated, make sure you use these tricks to make the flu virus too scared to come to your house! Use this [Flu Vaccine Finder](#) to find flu clinics near you.

[Information for Parents for the 2016-2017 Flu Season](#)

### **Sing & Scrub**

Make sure kids wash their hands frequently with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds. That's the time it takes to sing the Happy Birthday song twice. That will clean off any germs including the flu virus that they may unknowingly pick up throughout the day and keep them from passing them on.

**Follow Good Health Guidelines:** Eat right, exercise and get plenty of sleep. That will help boost your immune system, which is your body's way of fighting off the effects of colds and flu.

**Do the Elbow Cough:** Cough into elbows, not hands, where they are more likely to spread bacteria and the flu virus through touch.

**Disinfect Hot Spots:** Disinfect the surfaces kids touch most frequently with flu disinfectant products.

**Germ Hot Spots:** **1.** Phone Receivers **2.** Refrigerator, microwave and door handles **3.** Kitchen faucets **4.** Light switches **5.** TV remotes

Enjoy the holiday season,  
even with allergies

With a little planning and creativity – you can keep your family safe! Check out this blog authored by registered dietitian, Rima Kleiner – [8 Tips for Allergy- Free Holidays.](#)

Wonderful, Winter Foods for Kids

When the temperatures drop and the daylight hours are shorter, energy levels can take a big dip, right along with mood. Check out this blog authored by registered dietitian, Jessica Cording – [The Best Winter Foods for Kids.](#) Her list of foods will help your kids stay healthy – and happy – this winter.

## [Kid-friendly Vanilla Egnog Recipe](#)

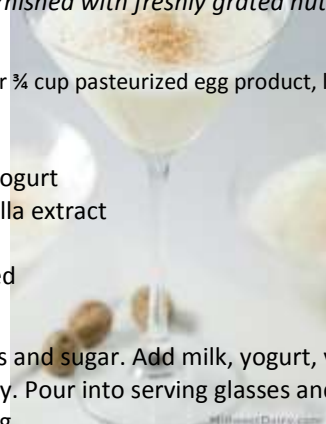
*Celebrate the holiday season and sip on this real dairy vanilla eggnog garnished with freshly grated nutmeg.*

### **Ingredients:**

3 pasteurized eggs (or ¾ cup pasteurized egg product, like Egg Beaters)  
1/3 cup sugar  
4 cups lowfat milk  
1 cup lowfat vanilla yogurt  
1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
Whole nutmeg, grated

### **Directions:**

In a blender, mix eggs and sugar. Add milk, yogurt, vanilla and salt; blend until frothy. Pour into serving glasses and garnish with freshly grated nutmeg.





## **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Signed Into Law December 2015**

Originally passed in 1965 by President Lyndon Baines Johnson the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is the primary federal law to govern most national elementary and secondary education programs. ESEA was created in response to the growing need for the federal government to improve the quality of education for lower income students. ESEA was passed in 1965 and last reauthorized in 2002 as the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). NCLB expired in 2007 and has been due for renewal since 2007. The House of Representatives passed a reauthorization of ESEA in December 2015 which is now titled Every Student Succeeds Act or ESSA. The House vote to approve was 359-64 and the Senate passed the bill by a vote of 85-12. President Obama signed the bipartisan ESSA into law on December 10, 2015.

The passage of ESSA shifts the focus to more state and local flexibility in education matters. Each state will now have more responsibility over their standards, school improvement plans, and accountability plans than they have had for several years.

ESSA will:

- Eliminate AYP and 100% proficiency requirement
- Establish long-term goals and indicators for measuring student achievement.

Student achievement will be measured on multiple criteria including assessments, student growth, English language proficiency, graduation rates and at least one other state-determined indicator of school quality or student success.

States will show they have adopted strong achievement standards in reading, math and science so students will be prepared to enter college or a career. These standards must include at least three state-defined levels of performance for students.

Many of ESSA's provisions went into effect the day the law was signed. The new accountability systems will not go into effect until the 2017-2018 school year.

There are many more provisions to the Every Student Achieves Act (ESSA). ***Kansas PTA will post information to the legislative tab of the website and information will be available on the National PTA website. Trainings will be provided in the coming months so that Kansas PTA members are up to date with all information surrounding ESSA and what it means for your students. Please watch the website, Bulletin and Kansas PTA FB and Twitter for updates!***

~ Debbie Lawson

***Information from National PTA and Advance/CTE***

### **Military Family Readiness**

Please see the attached flyer regarding a website developed by the Clearinghouse for **Military Family Readiness** at Penn State to support school personnel who work with military-connected students.

The website includes evidence-informed online learning modules, resources, and handouts pertaining to the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunities for Military Children, military work-related parental absence (including deployments), geographic transitions for military-connected students, and issues pertaining to interactions between military families, military personnel, and schools (e.g., military culture, demographics of military families & students, and resources for military families). Website resources and online learning modules describe background information, risk and protective factors, and strategies and programs that can be implemented within the school setting. Please view and share both the flyer and website with professionals who may benefit from additional information on supporting military-connected students within the educational setting.

<http://schoolresources.militaryfamilies.psu.edu/>

***Jessica Brushwood | School Liaison Officer | Child, Youth, & School Services***

***Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027***

**Dear PTA Leaders,**

We are very excited to announce an important partnership that has been entered into between the Kansas PTA and Castle Rock Research. Through this relationship, Castle Rock will provide a subscription of their SOLARO educational resource to students in Kansas for **FREE**. We are delighted by this generous offer and want to encourage all PTAs to take advantage of this valuable resource from a company that has helped hundreds of thousands of students with their studies over the past 20 years.



**Castle Rock has created SOLARO, a comprehensive Digital Study Guide** that is 100% aligned to Common Core State Standards covering Math and English Language Arts across grades 3 to 12. SOLARO is accessible via the web or through mobile devices, providing students with review lessons, study aids and thousands of practice questions with detailed solutions. To learn more about SOLARO or to start to use the Kansas PTA Partnership, please visit

<https://parent.solaro.com/Kansaspta>

**How can PTA get involved?**

The PTA can distribute licenses to families in your school. It is up to you if it is just for PTA members or if you want to include all families in your attendance area. All that you have to do is to simply direct families to the designated website at <https://parents.solaro.com/kansaspta> so they may receive free licenses for their children.

*We have a sample letter that you might want to use to inform parents in your school about this wonderful program. We believe that our partnership with Castle Rock and the resources that will be accessible to students and parents will foster family engagement and help improve academic achievement. Our hope is that every local unit and families at every school will find benefit in this opportunity.*

**MESSAGE FROM REGION 4 AND 7 FIELD SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE—Diana Fabac**

Greetings, I hope that all the units in Kansas and my regions have had a wonderful start to the school year and successful membership drive. It is the end of October. Things are beginning to slow down, and now is the time to catch up. You should have already sent in your membership remittance form and dues. Please continue to do so monthly even if you don't have any new members that month. Continue to recruit new members we need to add more voices to the advocacy of children in Kansas.

**Citizenship Essay Contest** is due to me by **November 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you had students participate in the Citizenship contest, you need to send me your top two (2) candidates in each category which is Essay and Poetry. The forms are on the Kansas PTA website and they need to be filled out correctly including the parent's signature. Reflections contest is starting NOW! The theme is "My story is..." and it is due to me by December 20<sup>th</sup>. There has been a change in how we are submitting these entries this year. All entries need to be submitted online and uploaded. If you need assistance with this process, let me know. Your unit will gather all the entries, you will judge all categories and send me your top two (2) winners in each category. There is a strict deadline on this contest, please contact me prior to December 20<sup>th</sup> if you have a submission.

It is election time and November goes fast, it is time to do **your annual IRS 990 filing. These are to be done by November 15<sup>th</sup>**. You need to go online to IRS.gov and do this filing. Failure to file will result in the IRS revoking your exempt status. Most units will only need to do the 990EZ filing; two questions and you are done. A few units will need to do a long form version. If you need assistance, do not hesitate to contact me and I can get assistance for your Treasurer. Once you have filed your 990, a copy of this is to be sent to the State office to go in your file. This is a requirement for a unit in good standing.

Now that it has slowed down, it is time to check and make sure that all information required by the state has been sent in. This includes a **New Officer's form, copy of your annual audit, membership dues including a list of members and their email addresses, a copy of your Standing Rules and a copy of your filed 990**. If you have not sent these it, now is the time to do it. **They are due by November 1<sup>st</sup>**. Once this has been done, let's start thinking about training and developing new members. February will come quickly and you will be forming a nominating committee. Are your members trained and ready to become board members? Do you have resources to train and develop new leadership for the future or is your unit going to continue to recycle the same members over and over? New leaders are the key to keeping your unit growing, progressive thinking and making sure that we are a diverse and inclusive organization. Without fresh ideas and different voices, we are stuck in what has always been done and your unit can't move forward. Please check online at PTA.org for their online classrooms and ask your members to take a class or two. The first of the year is quickly approaching and things will get hectic and before you know it the year will be over. Use this slow time to energize your membership! Plan on doing online classes and attending the KS PTA State Convention in April and prepare your board by developing new leaders and electing strong members to lead your unit into a successful future. We need voices for all children in Kansas, keep looking for those voices and advocate for our children.

## Kansas PTA Board Roster

Kansas PTA Board Roster

Kansas PTA Bulletin

This issue of the Bulletin is available on the Kansas PTA website at [www.kansas-pta.org](http://www.kansas-pta.org)

### State Officers

President	<b>Denise Sultz</b>	913-709-3916	<a href="mailto:ksptapres@gmail.com">ksptapres@gmail.com</a>
President-Elect	<b>Monica Crowe</b>	913-961-5026	<a href="mailto:crowemonica@yahoo.com">crowemonica@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President Advocacy	<b>Josh Halperin</b>	913-219-4176	<a href="mailto:jahalperin@gmail.com">jahalperin@gmail.com</a>
Vice President Extension Services	<b>Josefina Gutierrez</b>	913-787-6367	<a href="mailto:josiechad@yahoo.com">josiechad@yahoo.com</a>
Vice President Member Services	<b>Sheila Bunnell</b>	913-544-9072	<a href="mailto:bbynki@aol.com">bbynki@aol.com</a>
Secretary	<b>Rachel Henderson</b>	913-674-7117	<a href="mailto:Rhenderson082689@gmail.com">Rhenderson082689@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	<b>Dawn Lalumondier</b>	913-660-4763	<a href="mailto:kansasptatreasurer@gmail.com">kansasptatreasurer@gmail.com</a>

### State Chairman

Arts in Education and Awards	<b>Vikki Mullins</b>	913-523-6609	<a href="mailto:ksptamom@aol.com">ksptamom@aol.com</a>
Bulletin	<b>Tash Davis</b>	913-558-2211	<a href="mailto:tashbulletin@gmail.com">tashbulletin@gmail.com</a>
Bylaws	<b>Debbie Lawson</b>	913-707-9998	<a href="mailto:debbie@burli-lawson.com">debbie@burli-lawson.com</a>
Early Childhood	<b>Julie Howard</b>	913-608-6652	<a href="mailto:kuslider@juno.com">kuslider@juno.com</a>
Extension	<b>Diana Fabac</b>	913-475-7789	<a href="mailto:fabacd@turnerusd202.org">fabacd@turnerusd202.org</a>
Family Engagement	<b>Patty Jurich</b>	913-334-6051	<a href="mailto:pasj36@aol.com">pasj36@aol.com</a>
Health & Wellness	<b>Marley Sugar</b>	913-579-0884	<a href="mailto:msugar@midwestdairy.com">msugar@midwestdairy.com</a>
Legislative	<b>Devin Wilson</b>	913-484-6743	<a href="mailto:ksucats96@yahoo.com">ksucats96@yahoo.com</a>
Male Involvement	<b>Eric Snow</b>	620-704-0705	<a href="mailto:esnow@fathers.com">esnow@fathers.com</a>
Marketing	<b>Mia Wooldridge</b>	913-636-0191	<a href="mailto:mia@everestkc.net">mia@everestkc.net</a>
Membership	<b>Jose Gutierrez</b>	913-787-5775	<a href="mailto:josbermudez2000@yahoo.com">josbermudez2000@yahoo.com</a>
Military Engagement	<b>Amy Holloway</b>	573-586-8532	<a href="mailto:partyofsix24@gmail.com">partyofsix24@gmail.com</a>
PTA Store/Meeting Assistant	<b>Amanda Reese</b>		
Resolutions	<b>Lauri DeNooy</b>	913-548-7277	<a href="mailto:Lauri.denooy@gmail.com">Lauri.denooy@gmail.com</a>
<b>Resource Development</b>	<b>Debbie Lawson</b>	913-707-9998	<a href="mailto:debbie@burli-lawson.com">debbie@burli-lawson.com</a>
YAC (Youth Advisory Committee)			Contact <a href="mailto:Kansaspta@gmail.com">Kansaspta@gmail.com</a>

### Region Field Service Reps

Region 1	<b>Pam Smith</b>	913-314-5880	<a href="mailto:smithpamela790@gmail.com">smithpamela790@gmail.com</a>
Region 2,3,5	<b>Patty Jurich</b>	913-334-6051	<a href="mailto:pasj36@aol.com">pasj36@aol.com</a>
Region 4 & 7	<b>Diana Fabac</b>	913-475-7789	<a href="mailto:fabacd@turnerusd202.org">fabacd@turnerusd202.org</a>

### Special Committees

*NLDC	<b>Tammy Bartels</b>	913-416-3302	<a href="mailto:tammybartels@gmail.com">tammybartels@gmail.com</a>
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### \*Council Presidents

Kansas City, KS	<b>Allen Bradley</b>	913-208-8762	<a href="mailto:Ab Bradley1492@gmail.com">Ab Bradley1492@gmail.com</a>
Shawnee Mission	<b>Tash Davis</b>	913-558-2211	<a href="mailto:smacpres@smac-pta.org">smacpres@smac-pta.org</a>
Turner	<b>Josefina Gutierrez</b>	913-787-6367	<a href="mailto:josiechad@yahoo.com">josiechad@yahoo.com</a>
<b>*Office Secretary</b>	<b>Natalie Schweda</b>	785-234-5782	<a href="mailto:kansaspta@gmail.com">kansaspta@gmail.com</a>

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](mailto:kansaspta@gmail.com)  
[www.kansas-pta.org](http://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](mailto:info@pta.org)  
[www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)

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

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Nov-Dec 2016



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