

**February 20, 2023**

### **Unit Conferences**

Unit Conferences were a huge success! Mother Nature cooperated this year and all eleven conferences were held across the state. I truly appreciate sponsors taking the time out of their busy schedules to bring KAY club members to these events. Hopefully, your members came back re-energized and ready to finish the year strong.

Thanks to the following host schools and sponsors:

WaKeeney-Trego Community High School – LaTrisha Flax

Pomona-West Franklin Middle School – Trisha Rogers

Kensington-Thunder Ridge High School – Kathi Boden and Robin Billings

Johnson-Stanton County Middle School – Melissa Bolivar

Ransom-Western Plains High School – Pat Flax

Centralia High School – Lora Whetzal

Lenexa-St. James Academy – Julie Curnes

McPherson High School – Emilea Harlin

Maize Middle School – Celina Soukup

Hiawatha High School – Vickie Schuetz

Cherryvale Middle/High School – Savana Debo

It is now time to consider hosting a Unit Conference for next year. If you want to reach out to a host school to get more information from their standpoint, I know they would be willing to share. These smaller conferences are a great way to help build team unity and develop leadership skills.

### **KAY Leadership Camp**

KAY Leadership Camp (KLC) will be from July 24-28, 2023 at Rock Springs 4-H Center. This incredible week will be dedicated to kicking off our year of “Leadership Roundup” and to have fun along the way. KAY clubs will receive camp posters, brochures, and detailed information at the Unit Conferences.

### **KLC REGISTRATION OPENED ON FEBRUARY 17!**

#### **How do I register my members for KLC?**

Step 1: Go to <https://www.kshsaa.org/School/Login.cfm>

Step 2: Get your log information if you don't have it from your school administrator

Step 3: Once logged in select ACTIVITIES from the top of the page.

Step 4: Scroll down to KAY and select the appropriate item to register for

Step 5: Follow the prompts and/or instructions and submit registration.

Step 6: An invoice will be emailed to your Athletic Director, the following Wednesday after you enroll.

### **Officer/Board Elections**

This is the time of year to be thinking about how to conduct those officer elections and plan for the transition of leadership. One last reminder for this spring is scheduling a time to CELEBRATE all the successes from this past year in your KAY club. Everyone has worked so hard to accomplish their goals and it is important to come together and celebrate those accomplishments and build momentum for the 2023-2024 school year.

**KSHSAA True Blue Scholarships**

The KSHSAA will award True Blue Scholarships intended to support Kansas High School graduates in postsecondary efforts. This one-time scholarship is for students graduating during the 2022-2023 school year. These funds will be made payable to a two-year or four-year accredited college, university, or technical school in the name of the selected student. Awards are non-renewable, one-time scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 provided for a student in each activity administered by the KSHSAA. The application is now open and due March 1, 2023.

**Wanda May Vinson Scholarship**

The Wanda May Vinson Scholarship application is due by April 1, 2023. This is a great opportunity for KAY seniors to apply for funds for postsecondary education. [Scholarship Application](#)

**Retirement Announcement**

I have announced my intent to retire on August 1, 2023. My last day with the KSHSAA will be on July 31. Although I am not sure what my next adventure will be, I do know that I will now have the time to lead and serve, such as holding babies in the NICU, preparing meals at the Ronald McDonald House, continuing my calling to present on suicide prevention and anything else where I can help others. I am so very thankful for the relationships I have developed over the past two years with KAY sponsors and students. The days I get to spend in schools with both of those groups are my best days. If you ever need someone to help with a project or to speak at an event, please feel free to contact me.