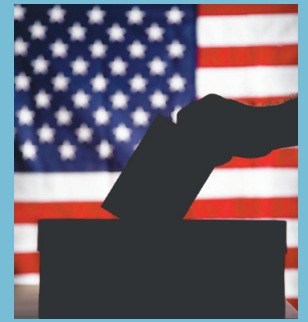


# BALLOT BOX BULLETIN

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF KIDS VOTING USA APRIL 2011



## OTHER NEWS

### 2011 Conference in Vegas

KVUSA is hosting the 2011 conference in Las Vegas at the Green Valley Ranch. The conference will begin on Thursday, October 20th with a professional development leadership class. Then the official welcome and KVUSA update will be at 1pm. The rest of the afternoon will focus on affiliate network time where anything is relative. On Friday, the group will attend the exciting KidsVention event and the conference will conclude at 1pm.



The finalized agenda, hotel information and registration materials will be distributed later this month.

Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 20th and Friday, October 21st! You won't want to miss out on this opportunity and that's a sure bet!!

### New Executive Director at Kids Voting Kansas

Emily Bradbury has returned to Kids Voting Kansas. She previously served as the executive director from 2002 to 2007.

"I have been thinking about the Kids Voting program and how much I miss it. I miss working with educational community and local community leaders," said Emily Bradbury.

## High School Civics Task Force Formed in Mesa Co.

The first high school civics task force formed in Mesa County, Colorado at Fruita Monument High School. The members created a mission that is very simple: to teach students about the importance of being informed voting citizens. When school began again in August, the task force met weekly and kept at it throughout November. Each task force student member helped create informational materials about the 2010 election and student ballot that they thought would be of interest to fellow students.



They also put up posters throughout the school and made regular morning announcements over the school P.A. system. Most significantly, however, was the creation and delivery of power point presentations to multiple classrooms during the election season. After each 12 minute presentation, lively discussions often ensued. Students and teachers alike appreciated those presentations, because they all learned more about what was on the ballot, and the task force members had a blast helping fellow students become more aware of the issues in the election.



# Developing an Effective Partnership

Written by: Katie Biggie, KVUSA Board Member & KV Western New York Executive Director

Developing partnerships is an exciting way to expand your reach, work with other community assets, reduce expenses, and create new programming. However, it also can be tiresome, difficult, unfruitful, and a waste of time. The key to an effective partnership is found in the very beginning stages - starting with a strong foundation of trust, respect, and understanding. It is also important for you to know your own goals and objectives, have a thorough understanding of your mission, and know the capacity within your organization – do you have people that can fold flyers? Or is it going to be you folding 500 flyers while watching TV one night? When you have your initial meeting with a new potential partner, arrive with ideas of what you would like to accomplish, but with enough flexibility to also include their goals and objectives. Remember – they have goals they want to accomplish too! Speak openly and clearly about your goals, they can't be achieved if they aren't on the table. Developing a partnership is a process, it may take several meetings before you decide on the final goal and the objectives needed to get there. It is important to not get frustrated, at the UB Center for Educational Collaboration, we often say developing a partnership is much like peeling an onion – there are many layers before you get to the center and you have to work through each of them.



## ★ April ★ Educator of the Month

KVUSA is pleased to announce that **Paula Lesko** is the April Educator of the Month. Mrs. Lesko is the Social Studies Supervisor for the Pasco County School District. She promotes and encourages Pasco County social studies teachers to participate in the Kids Voting Tampa Bay program. Paula organizes candidate forums for high school students. Hundreds of students attend the forums. Thanks to Mrs. Lesko leadership and dedication to the program more than 50 percent of the student population of 70,000 participate in the KVTB mock elections.



Kids Voting USA truly appreciates the work and passion Mrs. Paula Lesko demonstrates for our program.

*Kids Voting USA thanks the Gannett Foundation for their continuous support of the organization!*



## KVUSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Professor of Communication Studies,  
University of Kansas  
dbcinks@yahoo.com

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martypetty@mac.com

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javier.aldape@scripps.com

**Katie Biggie**

KV Western New York  
kjbiggie@buffalo.edu

**Richard Coe**

KV Southeast Pennsylvania  
rcoec@comcast.net

**Bobby Fox**

KV Tampa Bay  
bobby@kvtb.org

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Cornerstone Government Affairs, LLC  
ggonella@cgagroup.com

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Governing  
pharkness@governing.com

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Reynolds Journalism Institute  
University of Missouri  
johnsonpamela@missouri.edu

**Mark Morneau**

V.P./Information Technology  
Gannett Co., Inc.  
MMORNEAU@gannett.com

**Ron Thornburgh**

Senior VP of Business Development  
NIC Inc  
ront@nicusa.com

**Rachel Willis**

Executive Director  
rwillis@kidsvotingusa.org

KVUSA is managed by **KPA.**