

# BALLOT BOX BULLETIN



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF KIDS VOTING USA    OCTOBER 2009

## NEWS BRIEFS

### KVUSA Board to meet Oct. 22

The Kids Voting USA board will meet in Washington D.C. on Oct. 22, 2009.

The group plans to do some further strategic planning and goal setting.

A board meeting summary will be distributed to the affiliates following the meeting.

### Holmes is new at Kansas helm

Please welcome Julia Holmes to the Kids Voting USA network.

She is the new Kids Voting Kansas executive director.

Holmes expressed enthusiasm for her new responsibilities and opportunity to work to advance the mission of preparing young people to be educated, engaged voters.

### KVUSA plans 2010 meeting

The national office will begin planning for the 2010 conference soon.

A conference committee will be creating the agenda, identifying speakers and assisting with other details.

To serve on the committee, please send an email to [rwillis@kidsvotingusa.org](mailto:rwillis@kidsvotingusa.org).



*A number of dignitaries from Topeka and the state of Kansas joined in as Mayor Bill Bunten of Topeka helped cut the ribbon on the new KVUSA headquarters at the Kansas Press Association. Rachel Willis is the new executive director (in gray suit).*

## There's no place like home

### KVUSA moves to new office in Kansas

Kids Voting USA has completed a successful move to Topeka, Kan.

The Kansas Press Association has been more than welcoming. Both electronic and hard copy files have found new homes in the office.

The environment is proving to be quite productive as the Board of Directors and Executive Director have been able to accomplish a great deal since the beginning of the transition on May 1.

KVUSA Board Chair Geoff Gonella said of the new management arrangement: "We are so pleased to be starting a new chapter in our organization's history."

"The importance of civic education and engagement has never been greater and the impact we are having and will continue to have has never been more important."

"We are looking forward to working with the Kansas Press Association to continue to ensure the future of our democracy by creating educated, engaged citizens."

Rachel Willis is the new executive director of Kids Voting USA. She previously was executive director of Kids Voting Kansas.

She is a graduate of Washburn University in Topeka with a degree in political science.

She is married to Steve Willis, who works for the state of Kansas.



Dr. Joyce King (far right) and Carol Gibson (center) presented about the Kids Voting Greater Las Vegas program titled “Kids-Vention” at the 2009 KVUSA conference.

## 2009 conference in Kansas City a hit

Fifteen people, three board members and two sponsor representatives joined us in Kansas City to learn about the latest from nationals, what other affiliates are doing and key aspects with

regards to fundraising, social networking and building relationships.

For the conference roster, handouts, presentations etc, email [rwillis@kidsvotingusa.org](mailto:rwillis@kidsvotingusa.org).

## Office to survey affiliates/associates

The national office is creating a comprehensive survey for the affiliates/associates. The survey will ask a variety of questions including:

- Does your organization have a facebook page?
- Does your organization conduct online voting?
- What additional resources does your organization provide to teachers/educators?
- Who are your current funding sources?
- How many school districts participate in your territory?

The national office wants to update its records on each affiliate/associate.

The survey may be time intensive, but will be extremely useful when complying funding requests and starting new affiliates.

It will be distributed in the near future.

## Ballot Box Bulletin debuts first edition

This is the first edition of the Ballot Box Bulletin. This will be a monthly publication from the national office.

Affiliates are encouraged to

submit stories, articles and pictures for consideration to be included in the e-newsletter.

Please email [rwillis@kidsvotingusa.org](mailto:rwillis@kidsvotingusa.org) your stories, articles and pictures today!

## Links to stories in the news

Click on the links below to view recent stories about Kids Voting:

- <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/topstories/story/926401.html>
- [http://www.stlbeacon.org/the\\_feed/\\_engaging\\_young\\_people\\_part\\_ii](http://www.stlbeacon.org/the_feed/_engaging_young_people_part_ii)
- [http://www.newuniversity.org/2004/10/opinion/voting\\_is\\_just\\_another91/](http://www.newuniversity.org/2004/10/opinion/voting_is_just_another91/)
- <http://www.govtech.com/gt/articles/726837>
- <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/VoicesAndVibes/2009/09/25/Durham-Political-Activist-Carolyn-Kreuger-Mayoral-Candidate-Steven-Williams>

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