

**Ladies – start your engines.....**

February 23 and 24 marked the dates for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Area Professional Development Day, in Olathe, Kansas. KAEOP was the host for this conference and the theme was “*Fast Track to Professionalism.*” States represented were Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and one person from Pennsylvania. Approximately 50 individuals attended the conference which began with a get acquainted open house Thursday evening. Delicious snacks, mingling, and a racing word search started the activities. The participants divided into groups for “building their race car” out of office supply materials. Cars were judged by distance rolled and “best of show.” The winning teams received trophies. The next activity was a “racing relay” with each team having to simulate activities a pit crew would do during a race to keep their car going. The winning team received a bouquet of chocolate roses. Last but not least the evening ended with a friendship gift exchange.

On Saturday following an early morning breakfast, we began our workshop with Larry Bluthardt, State Director of the School Bus Safety Education Unit with the Kansas State Department of Education. Larry’s presentation “*Up Your Attitude*” gave us thoughts to help us examine why we have certain attitudes and what we can do to change them. Keeping a positive outlook is beneficial for not only the person but for everyone with whom they interact. It’s that positive realization that adds up to a healthier and happier you.

During our conference we had the opportunity to bid on silent auction items, make donations for state baskets and 50/50 tickets. These three areas collected a total of \$493.00 and made quite a few folks happy with their winnings. We also had a brief Central Area meeting during the luncheon which was facilitated by Lola Young, Central Area Director. CAPDD for 2008 will be held in Missouri.

All too soon it was time to cross the finish line. It’s always sad to say goodbye but we hope to be able to catch up with each other again in Seattle for the National conference. Thanks to all of the Kansas office professionals that helped to make the conference a success.