



Our mission: To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

### April 2016 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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#### Things to do in April:

1. Check on your Nominating Committee's progress.
2. Check your bylaws and prepare for officer elections.
3. Work on procedure books to give to successors.
4. Make plans for Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6.
5. Register for the Kentucky PTA Convention, July 15-16.
6. Once new officers are elected, complete the [Officer's Information Form](#) and send it to Kentucky PTA.

#### Town Hall Meetings

### A Message from Kentucky PTA President

Many parents have busy schedules and want to know the most effective ways to get involved in their child's school and learning. Parents quickly learn that their involvement is important in order for their child to succeed and reach their full potential.



Cherie Dimar

Involvement is different for every family and is not limited to attending meetings or participating at school.

Here are a few ways to get involved:

- Join your local parent teacher association, even if you aren't able to be at every meeting, you know there is a group of parents who are invested in the success of every child at your school - including your own child.
- Be interested and talk about school matters at home. Encourage your child to talk about his/her day and express concerns. Listen to your child.
- Be a partner in your child's learning. Develop a relationship with your child's teacher and keep in touch with him/her often. Consistent communication (via email, phone, etc.) will help build relationships.

In light that National Volunteer Week was April 10 - 16, we want to take time to thank you for donating your time to organize the Fall Festival, School Picture Day, the Book Fair, Field Day or what ever events you helped plan this school year.

Many of you sacrifice your own personal/family time for the benefit of the students and families in your school community. Your involvement and engagement with the teachers, students,

Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt has been hosting a series of regional Town Hall meetings across the Commonwealth to gather feedback from Kentuckians on how they define school success.

These are the remaining dates and locations for these meetings:

April 21 - Louisville  
April 25 - Northern Kentucky  
April 27 - Bowling Green  
April 28 - Murray

An online meeting is planned for those unable to attend a meeting in person or you may send your comments to [KyEdListens@education.ky.gov](mailto:KyEdListens@education.ky.gov).

### New Financial Review Deadline

Kentucky PTA fiscal year is July 1 through June 30, so plan ahead and be prepared to meet submission requirements.

Submit Financial Review Form to Principal of your School per Kentucky Department of Education Accounting Procedures Redbook Regulations. Each PTA/PTSA must submit an annual financial report to Principal of your School by July 15.

Mail [Financial Review Form](#) to Kentucky PTA, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601, per local unit bylaws, by July 15.

**May 14, 2016**

The Student Recognition Program is an awards ceremony for the Scholarship, Self Esteem, Rising Star and Reflections winners.

This year's ceremony is on Saturday, May 14th, 1:00 - 3:00 pm, at the Lexington Children's Theatre, 418 West Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky, 40507.

**June 30 - July 3, 2016**

[National PTA Convention](#)

and parents in your school makes a difference and the Kentucky PTA Board appreciates your many acts of kindness.

According to the Independent Sector, the value of volunteers has increased more than two percent from the previous year. [Click here](#) to see the details.

## My Guiding Principles for Education

I have seen and learned many things since starting as Kentucky's Commissioner of Education in October.

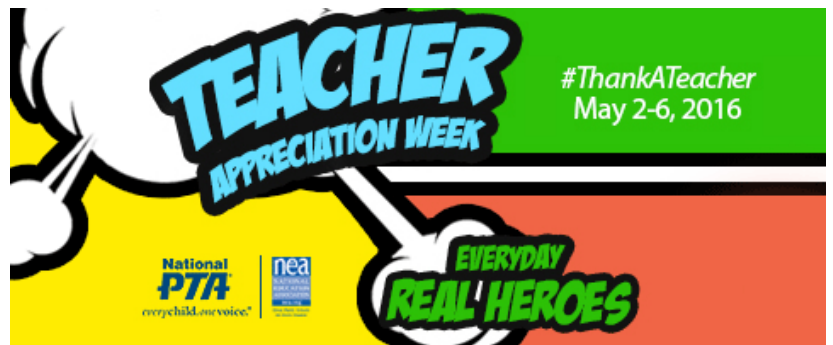
I have met with policymakers, community leaders, superintendents, principals, parents and students. I have gotten to know every line item of the Department of Education's budget, had the privilege of recognizing outstanding educators and school districts and have taken every opportunity I could get to step inside classrooms and see our Commonwealth's teachers and students hard at work.



Stephen Pruitt

It's those visits to the classroom that re-energize and inspire me. It's visits to Emily Smith's first-grade class in Hickman County or handing out medals at the Kentucky School for the Deaf in Danville that drive home what all of the meetings, the budgets, the policies and the regulations are about - it's about the kids. [\(Read more\)](#)

## Thank a Teacher



Teachers are real life superheroes. They educate, innovate, encourage and support. Every day they touch the lives of millions of children and their work and impact extends far beyond the boundaries of the classroom.

Take the time to celebrate these real life superheroes during **PTA Teacher Appreciation Week, May 2-6, 2016**. For resources, fresh ideas, and more (including [a tool kit!](#)) visit



**Save the Date!**  
July 15-16, 2016  
**Kentucky PTA Convention**  
at Chancey Elementary School  
4301 Murphy Lane, Louisville, KY



Featuring a presentation by National PTA President, Laura Bay (pictured).



[Grant applications](#) for the Kentucky PTA Convention are due June 1. Or download a [registration form](#) and register before June 15 for a discounted rate.

## KY PTA Executive Board

President

pta.org.

## Membership Corner

This month's tip: Membership recruitment is a year-round activity! Zealously promoting PTA/PTSA and being welcoming and inclusive will lead to a strong membership.

Right now is the time to

- Evaluate the year's progress, make written recommendations for the next year and finish your procedure book
- Attend kindergarten or middle school/junior high/high school orientation to recruit members
- Encourage your Membership Chair to attend the Kentucky PTA convention in order to network and gather all new membership information.
- Turn over all records to next year's Membership Chair prior to convention
- Work with your incoming Membership Chair to plan recruiting ideas for your school's spring pre-registration

## Healthy School Meals Grant

National PTA's Healthy School Meals Grant provides local PTAs with tools to use in partnering with school leaders and food service providers to improve school meals. How PTAs utilize the grant funds will vary depending on the specific needs of their school, but some areas to focus on include improving:

- The cafeteria environment
- Local School Wellness Policies
- School meal quality
- Perceptions of school meals

Grant application deadline is Friday, April 22, 12:00 pm EST. [Click here](#) to learn more!



National PTA School of Excellence is a recognition program that supports and celebrates partnerships between PTAs and schools to enrich the educational experience and overall well-being for all students.

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Your PTA and school will gain new ways to engage families in programs, practices and policies related to education, health, safety or the arts. [Click here](#) for more information or contact [excellence@pta.org](mailto:excellence@pta.org), 800.307.4782.

## Insight from the Teacher of the Year

*Note: Ashley Lamb-Sinclair is a guest speaker at this year's Kentucky PTA Convention.*

In 2011, I had the privilege of traveling to Thailand and Vietnam on a Fulbright Scholarship. On the way to Thailand, one of the flight attendants came over the loudspeaker and announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, we have teachers on board our flight today. Please join me in a round of applause to thank them for their service." ... I had never before experienced such open gratitude for what I do.



Ashley Lamb-Sinclair

While in Thailand, we were treated like royalty. [\(Read more\)](#)

## Youth Summit

First ever Youth Summit, held in Louisville, makes history in Special Olympics Kentucky.



On Monday, March 21, Special Olympics Kentucky hosted a Project UNIFY Youth Summit for students and educators across the state. We had 78 middle and high school students and 33 educators attend.

Project UNIFY is a school-based program, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, bringing youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through sports, education, and awareness activities. Project UNIFY's stated purpose is to activate youth to develop school communities where all young people are agents of change - fostering respect, dignity and advocacy for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) by utilizing the existing programs of Special Olympics, as well as new, student-led initiatives. [\(Read more\)](#)

Kentucky PTA, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

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