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Together Everyone Achieves More

Kentucky PTA Bulletin

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

January 2016

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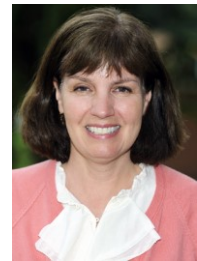
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A Message from KY PTA President

Kentucky PTA and the 15th District PTA recently sponsored a Rally for Education Funding in order to send a message to the 2016 Kentucky General Assembly that Our Kids Can't Wait. Our PTA Mission is to help all children reach their full potential and having the necessary monetary support in all of Kentucky's public schools can help make this goal a reality. During this budget session, it is important that we continue to send this message to our legislators. When we are talking to legislators, our membership numbers really do matter. The more members we have, the more legislators will listen to us.



Cherie Dimar

Advocacy is what makes PTA unique. As leaders, your work and contributions are an important part of PTA's legacy of advocacy that has held strong for more than a century.

I have met so many PTA leaders across Kentucky that are having a positive impact of the lives of children and families every day. You are organizers, motivators, liaisons, classroom

Upcoming Events

January 15, 2016

Membership dues payment to Kentucky PTA

February 15, 2016

The following forms are due to Kentucky PTA:

- [Scholarship applications](#)
- [Christa McAuliffe Rising Star applications](#)
- [Self-Esteem Award applications](#)

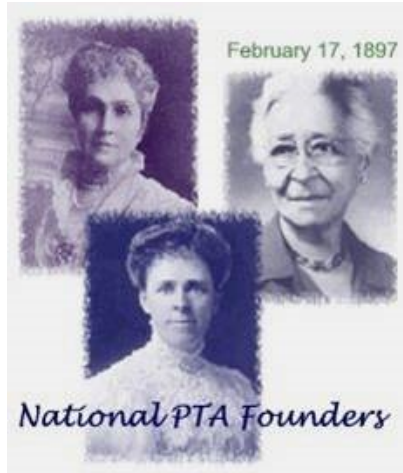
This is also the deadline for sending dues to [District](#), [State and National](#) PTA.

February 15 - 19, 2016

[Take Your Family to School Week](#)

February 17, 2016

National PTA [Founders Day](#)



March 15, 2016

[Kentucky PTA Awards](#) application deadline is March 15.

- Outstanding Classified Personnel
- Outstanding Educator

assistants, advocates and so much more. Keep up the good work!

A Message from Kentucky's Education Commissioner

As a nation, we talk a lot about the achievement gap.

The achievement gap is the persistent difference in many measures of academic achievement - such as test scores and graduation rates - between white and Asian children and African American and Hispanic children. Historically, the latter two groups of children have lagged behind the scores of white and Asian children.



Stephen Pruitt

But the achievement gap isn't just limited to race or ethnicity. Children with disabilities and English language learners often face some of the biggest achievement gaps when compared to other children. Educators, parents, nonprofit groups and foundations have been working steadily to try to narrow all of these kinds of achievement gap for decades, yet they stubbornly remain.

While the achievement gap is an important thing to keep an eye on, it's not the only gap that matters. [\[Read more\]](#)



Membership Corner

- Outstanding Male Involvement / Participation
- Kentucky PTA Penguin Award
- Outstanding Membership Campaign
- Outstanding Programs/Projects
- Outstanding Local Unit Newsletter
- Outstanding School Nurse
- Outstanding Volunteer
- Outstanding Local Unit Website
- Volunteer Participation

To learn more, refer to your [Leaders' Notebook](#).

Would you like to recognize a special person who has given outstanding service to children or youth? Check out the [Kentucky PTA Honorary Life Recognition](#).

Have questions? Contact Veralyn Eyermann, Awards Chairperson, veralyn@roadrunner.com.

May 14, 2016

Student Recognition Program

June 30 - July 3, 2016

[National PTA Convention](#),
Orlando, Florida

July 15 - 16, 2016



Kentucky PTA Convention,

The theme for January's PTA membership campaign, "New Year. New Opportunities. Join your local PTA." plays on the optimism that the new year brings.

Encourage parents to make their number one resolution to be more involved in their children's education. January is not too late to make a real impact in the current school year. Plus, people who join PTA in January will be ready to renew their membership the following school year.

As you recruit new members, make sure you involve current members, who will likely feel a renewed commitment to the decision they made at the start of the school year. Tell members their important role in the campaign: each member should resolve to invite at least one new person to join PTA.

Many PTAs run only one membership campaign a year, in the fall. But those units that run more than one campaign a year have, on average, an increase with their membership drive! That's because potential members have more opportunities to say, "Yes!" to becoming a member.

Running membership campaigns more frequently reminds your members that membership is everyone's business, especially if you weave membership into programs, activities, and general PTA work, too.

The Kentucky PTA has a Strive for Five Membership Incentives, due on January 15. The local units with 5% over last year numbers will be put into a drawing for \$50.00, so send in your membership dues so your local unit can be in the drawing.

If you have questions regarding membership, please contact Kathy Smiley atkthysmiley@yahoo.com or 412.952.6011.

Advocacy

Keep in mind that your Senator and Representative will only know what your school and the children and families in your community need if you communicate with them.

If you need assistance regarding this please contact Kentucky PTA legislative chairman Sharon Whitworth, sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us.



Louisville, Kentucky

[This link](#) will help you find your legislators and contact them.



Have you explored the National PTA's [2015-2016 Back to School Kit](#)? It's completely digital, but includes the same advice and reference guides you've come to expect, that help PTAs deepen their impact and venture into new territory.

KY PTA Executive Board

President, [Cherie Dimar](#)

President Elect, [Bekki Livingston](#)

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[Autumn Neagle](#)

VP Organization Services,
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VP Programs, [Leeann Myers](#)

VP Communications, vacant

VP Membership, [Kathy Smiley](#)

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Legislative Commissioner,
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[Eddie Squires](#)

E-Learning Is E-asy

National PTA has provided an online opportunity for PTA leaders to hone skills and enhance leadership knowledge. Access is easy and available 24/7.

Courses are 30-40 minutes long and cover 17 topics in the three general areas of PTA Essentials, PTA Nuts and Bolts, and Leadership Enhancement. Learn more at pta.org/elearning.

Awards and Scholarships

Each year Kentucky PTA awards several scholarships. The application deadline is February 15. Applications and more information can be found in the [Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook](#) and [website](#).

\$500 Student Scholarship

This biennial \$1,000 scholarship is awarded in even numbered years for a two year period, \$500 each year. The recipient must plan to enter the teaching field and attend a Kentucky college or university.

\$1,000 Harold Steele Scholarship

If funds are available, \$500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from high schools with a PTSA in good standing. Recipients must plan to enter the teaching field and attend a Kentucky college or university.

\$500 Teacher-Member Scholarship

The number of \$500 scholarships awarded is determined by funds available. The purpose of these scholarship is to help teachers obtain credit toward a Master's degree or Rank 1 at a public college or university in Kentucky, or within a state bordering Kentucky. Preference will be given to a specialized areas that are most needed by the state when the recipients are selected.

\$500 Parent-Member Scholarship

This scholarship is for PTA/PTSA parent members pursuing an undergraduate degree in education or a health field at an accredited public college or university in Kentucky.



[KYPTA](#) | find us on [Facebook](#)

[13th District PTA](#)

[14th District PTA](#)

[15th District PTA](#)

Financial News

If you have financial questions concerning the 990 filing with the IRS, insurance, financial review forms, the KDE Redbook or any other financial related items, please contact your district president/contact or the Kentucky PTA Treasurer, Brian Wampler bwampler68@gmail.com.