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.

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
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

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.

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]

March 15, 2016
Kentucky PTA Awards application deadline is March 15.

- Outstanding Classified Personnel
- Outstanding Educator

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.

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E-Learning Is Easy

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.

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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.

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KY PTA Executive Board

President, Cherie Dimar
President Elect, Bekki Livingston
VP Leadership & Outreach, Autumn Neagle
VP Organization Services, Maria Sorolis
VP Programs, Leaann Myers
VP Communications, vacant
VP Membership, Kathy Smiley
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Legislative Commissioner, Sharon Whitworth
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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.