



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

March 2016 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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Town Hall Meetings

Kentucky Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt is hosting a series of regional Town Hall meetings across

A Message from Kentucky PTA President

Several board members of Kentucky PTA just returned from the National PTA Legislative Conference in Washington DC. Among other things, we met with our legislators and asked that they support Congress funding the Statewide Family Engagement Centers at the authorized level of \$10 million. All of us must continue to tell our legislators on the state and national levels that the future of our students requires a well-funded public education system.



Cherie Dimar

I continue to be inspired by the dedicated and hard working leaders across our state that volunteer their time for the benefit of the children and families in their school community. Thank you for all that you do!

Note: This is the time of year to check your bylaws and see when your nominating committee is to be elected and when you should hold your election. It is important to identify new board members in order to keep your PTA growing.

the Commonwealth to gather feedback from Kentuckians on how they define school success.

Read the entire press release [here](#), then make note of when Dr. Pruitt will be in your area.

March 22 - Campbellsville
March 29 - Owensboro
March 31 - Hazard
April 7 - Lexington
April 11 - Corbin
April 18 - Ashland
April 21 - Louisville
April 25 - Northern Kentucky
April 27 - Bowling Green
April 28 - Murray

May 14, 2016

Student Recognition Program
Lexington Children's Theater
Lexington, Kentucky
1:00 - 3:00 pm

June 30 - July 3, 2016

[National PTA Convention](#)



Save the Date!

Taking the Time to Get It Right

There's a popular saying that it takes a village to raise a child. I think that it takes an entire state to educate a child. Let me explain what I mean by that.



Stephen Pruitt

In December 2015, the bipartisan Every Student Succeeds Act was signed into law. The law reauthorized the 50-year-old Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which has become the nation's biggest statement about and commitment to providing an equitable education for every student.

The Every Student Succeeds Act, also known as ESSA, provides some big challenges and even bigger opportunities for states. One of the biggest of which is giving states broad leeway to revamp their accountability systems. [\[Read more\]](#)

PTA has resources for families on the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Visit the [national PTA website](#) to learn more.

Membership Corner

Hello, PTA/PTSA Leaders thank you for sending in your Membership Dues to Kentucky PTA. We want to Congratulate Locust Grove Elementary School PTA (Kentucky District 13) for winning the "Strive for Five Drawing" (5% increase over last year's membership) they received a check from Kentucky PTA for \$50.00.

Kentucky PTA is pleased to announce the 16-in-16 Membership Drive, February 1 - April 15. For every 16 memberships you send to Kentucky PTA, your local unit has a chance to receive a FREE Registration to the Kentucky PTA Convention, July 15-16, 2016!



Membership tips for the month of March:

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.

- Spring forward with your membership drive by recruiting parents who will have students in your school next year.
- Be sure to introduce special guests at your meetings and welcome them. #everyone is a potential PTA member!
- Roll out the welcome mat and let guests know they are welcome to attend every meeting and event. Assign each new person a buddy or mentor who can answer questions.

Remember: Kentucky PTA gives membership awards to local units, but the only way for us to know about your membership is for your unit to send in the Membership Report, (available [online](#)). If you need a hard copy, please contact your district or state contact for the report form.

Advocacy Alerts

For three weeks the Kentucky PTA is sending its members messages regarding the Governor's proposed education budget cuts. We're focusing on three areas of particular concern: Family Resource Centers, Preschools, and Flexible Funding, programs we believe directly affect our students' education.



Please call or write to your Senate or House Representative and share your personal experience with one or all of the programs and how you feel they benefit the state and our children. (See our [sample letter](#)).

If you write and ask for a response, make sure to include your email address, phone number, address and/or other contact information. Please share any responses you receive from legislators with Sharon Whitworth, Kentucky PTA Legislative Commissioner, swhitwo1@aol.com.

KY PTA Executive Board

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Celebrating the Life of June Key

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[KYPTA](#) | find us on [Facebook](#)
148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601
kypta.bulletin@gmail.com

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It is with deepest sympathy that we announce the death of June Key, past District President of the Louisville Council PTAs (1965-67) and Past President of Kentucky PTA (1975-77).



June started the 15th District PTA Clothing Assistance Program in 1971 and, 45 years later, the program is still giving clothes to students so that they can go to school prepared to learn. June was instrumental in moving the education of Kentucky children forward. She had the gift of touching the lives of everyone she came into contact with, from President of the United States to a local PTA volunteer.

June Key died Sunday, March 13, 2016. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

New E-Learning Course

A new e-learning course is available in Spanish, El Secretario de la Unidad Local (translation: Local Unit Secretary). Description: Este curso es una introducción a las funciones y responsabilidades del secretario de una unidad local de la PTA.

Twenty e-learning courses are available - from Advocacy to Treasurer, Board Basics to Reflections, there is an e-learning course (or two) for you! Learn more at [this link](#).

Healthy Lifestyles Grant

The National PTA requests proposals for the 2016-2017 Healthy Lifestyles: Healthy School Meals Grant, which will award \$2,000 to 25 local PTAs. This funding is made possible thanks to funding from Pew Charitable Trust.

This grant will support local PTAs as they advocate for and collaborate with the school administration and food service team to improve school meals. National PTA will provide a toolkit of turn-key assessment, implementation and promotion tools, as well as ongoing training and technical assistance. The application deadline is April 4, 2016. For more information, please visit: PTA.org/SchoolMeals.



