



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

FEBRUARY 2017
Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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Financial News

If you have questions concerning the IRS 990 filing (was due November 15, 2016), financial review (was due July 15, 2016) or any other financial

A Message from Kentucky PTA President

The 2000 men and women who met in Washington D.C. on February 17, 1897 (to found what is now the National PTA) shared two concerns: the conditions under which children were living and the future of the nation. These two basic beliefs - that children are the future and that everyone needs to care about children - have guided PTA programs, projects and advocacy efforts for the last 120 years. We are united by this common concern. Take time to celebrate what our founders did and what your PTA has done to help better the lives of children and youth.



Cherie Dimar

During this busy legislative session, the Kentucky PTA legislative team is monitoring issues important for all children in Kentucky. You can be effective advocates by letting our elected officials know where you stand on issues. Kentucky PTA Legislative Priorities are included in this issue.

Kentucky PTA provides a number of awards and scholarship opportunities. Take time to look through

related items, please contact the Kentucky PTA office, 502.226.6607 or kytapattyh@bellsouth.net.

It is important that you send a copy of these completed items to Kentucky PTA for our records.



For more than 120 years, National PTA has been encouraging families to get more involved in their child's education.

Help celebrate PTA's long legacy of family engagement during National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week, February 13-17, 2017. This year's theme is: Celebrating the Changing Faces of Families.

[\[Read more\]](#)

Founders Day and African American History Month

Both PTA Founders Day and African American History Month have significance for PTA. At the national level there are three women who are considered our "founders". Alice Birney (left) and Phoebe Apperson Hurst (center) were the leaders who formed, on February 17, 1897, what is now the National PTA.

In later years the National PTA helped Selma Sloan Butler (right) found the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. When the two organizations merged in 1970, so did their identical mission to improve children's lives.

the awards and scholarships listed in this bulletin and in the Leaders' Notebook.

Sometimes, it is necessary to make budget amendments. Your PTA could have had a very successful fundraiser that you underestimated or your fundraiser didn't turn out so well. Don't forget that your general membership needs to vote on any necessary budget adjustments.

If you don't already have money allocated in your budget for sending board members to the Kentucky PTA Convention, be sure to do this when you make budget adjustments. There is no better way to prepare for the upcoming year than to attend the workshops at Convention on July 14 & 15. You will find the registration form in this bulletin.

Without you, we could not do all that we do! We look forward to your continued commitment to the health, safety and education of our children and students.

Statement on Betsy DeVos' Confirmation



[On February 7], Betsy DeVos was confirmed as U.S. Secretary of Education. Throughout the confirmation process, National

PTA joined other education, civil rights, disabilities and community organizations in expressing strong concerns for Secretary DeVos' lack of experience with public education; unfamiliarity with the challenges and opportunities facing the nation's public school students, families and educators; and support of programs that divert critical public school resources.

"National PTA looks forward to informing Secretary DeVos on all of our [public policy priorities](#), including equitable public education for all, healthy and safe schools, protections for our nation's most vulnerable youth and the importance of family engagement in education. Where we are in alignment, we stand ready to work together, however, policies of the administration that attempt to weaken public



Read more about the joint history of Founders Day and African American History Month [here](#).

Important Dates

February is:
African American History Month

February 9, 2017
Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol, Frankfort, KY

February 13-17, 2017
National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week

March is: National Reading Month

April is: Month of the Military Child and National Arab-American Heritage Month

May is: Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month and National Foster Care Month

May 1-5, 2017
Teacher Appreciation Week

May 13, 2017
Student Recognition Program, Lexington, KY

June 22-25, 2017
National PTA Convention, Las Vegas

July 14-15, 2017
KY PTA Convention, Louisville, KY

National Reading Month

education will continue to meet National PTA's opposition. [\[Read more\]](#)

Kentucky PTA Legislative Priorities 2017

CHARTER SCHOOLS:

1. In order to prevent any service reductions and maintain equity for all students, public charter schools must not divert funding from existing non-charter public schools.
2. Charter Schools must ensure access for all children, be free of tuition and be reflective of district population.
3. Charter schools must be subject to the same assessment, accountability standards, and certification as non-charter public schools, in order to ensure high quality education for all children.
4. Charter schools must adhere to the service standards for students with special needs (IEP, 504 plans), including which entity is to be the local education agency (LEA) responsible for providing these services and how they are to be funded.
5. Charter schools must meaningfully engage parents in transparent authorizing, review, and any decision making processes, including the involvement of at least two parents on all levels of charter boards.

FUNDING:

1. Maintain or increase funding for adequate K-12 public school education.
2. Oppose any voucher or tax credits.
3. Support tax reform to increase public school funding.

SCHOOL BASED DECISION MAKING COUNCILS (SBDM):

1. Oppose any reduction in authority and/or dismantling of school based decision-making councils (SBDM) in schools.
2. School councils promote shared leadership among those who are close to the students. Membership of each council includes parents, teachers, and an administrator of the school.

To learn more, read the National PTA's [Public Charter Schools Position Statement](#).



In March 2017, thousands of schools will transform their National Reading Month event into a PTA Family Reading Experience - an interactive event that engages the whole family in reading activities.

Parents take part in the fun with their kids and leave the event with a deeper understanding of the simple ways they can support the core skills of literacy. [\[Read more\]](#)



SAVE THE DATE!

Kentucky PTA Convention 2017
Friday, July 14 - Saturday July 15

Location: Bowen Elementary
1601 Roosevelt Avenue
Louisville, Kentucky 40242

[Register now](#) for an excellent opportunity for leadership training, networking with fellow PTA/PTSA leaders from across Kentucky, accepting awards on your association's behalf, and making connections with numerous vendors!

[Registration](#) is just \$50 per person if you register on or before June 15.

Nominating Committee

Take a Second Look at CTE

Blurring the lines when you're painting stripes for a new road is probably not a good thing. Blurring the lines between career and technical education (CTE) classes and what we've traditionally thought of as college-prep classes, however, is a great thing.



Stephen Pruitt

Too often in the past we've thought of CTE as being an alternative pathway for students who, for one reason or another, weren't going to attend a college or a university. It was the consolation prize. We need to begin imagining a future where there is no need to make this decision between taking college-prep or CTE classes. It is time for all of us in the Commonwealth to realize that CTE is for everyone.

By taking career and technical education classes - which can cover everything from agriscience to engineering to biomedical - students can earn industry certifications and learn skills that can help them succeed at whatever they want to do in life, regardless of whether that involves a college degree. This is the new face of career and technical education. [\[Read more\]](#)

Membership Corner

Congratulations to Twenhofel Middle School (District 14)! They won the Strive for Five Membership Drawing with a 5% membership increase over last year's membership number.



Something else to celebrate: Founder's Day is February 17! Say "Happy Birthday, PTA!" by asking members to bring a new member to a meeting

The Nominating Committee is charged with screening and evaluating individuals and candidates for Kentucky PTA Leadership Positions. The Nominating Committee is open to receiving applications from interested candidates and welcomes recommendations from PTA membership. If interested, [Explore Kentucky PTA's Pathway to Leadership](#).

Kentucky PTA Executive Board

President
[Cherie Dimar](#)

President Elect
[Janet Jones](#)

VP Leadership & Outreach
[Autumn Neagle](#)

VP Organizational Services
[Adam Kesler](#)

VP Programs
[Leeann Myers](#)

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[Debbie Wesslund](#)

VP Membership
[Kathy Smiley](#)

Secretary
[Heather McGovern](#)

Treasurer
[Brian Wampler](#)

Legislative Commissioner
[Sharon Whitworth](#)

or event, or just introduce them to the value and mission of PTA.

Other ideas this month:

- Reenergize your efforts in the second semester by taking a look at your membership goal. How close are you to reaching it?
- Keep members who have not yet volunteered informed of upcoming activities.
- Personally contact inactive members to thank them for their support and update them on your PTA/PTSA's goals and progress.
- Most important, ask for help. The number one reason people volunteer is because they were asked.

Note: The next Kentucky PTA Membership call is on Thursday, February 16, 2017 @ 8:00 pm EST. Call 641.715.3580 and use access code 585-759. The theme for this call is the 2nd Semester Membership Drive and information about the Kentucky PTA Membership Awards.

Kindergarten Cut-off Moves to Aug. 1

Beginning with the upcoming school year, children entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before August 1. Up until now, the cutoff was October 1.

The General Assembly changed the law in 2012, based on the premise that younger students may not be ready for kindergarten. The change takes effect for the 2017-18 school year. Parents/caretakers may request an early enrollment option for those students not meeting the entry age requirement. Under KRS 158.030, districts must establish a policy for an early enrollment that includes an evaluation process to determine the child's readiness for school.

In 2015, the General Assembly amended this statute to allow early admission students, enrolled under the district's policy, to be counted in the district's average daily attendance (ADA) for the calculation of SEEK.



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

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- [12th District PTA](#)
- [13th District PTA](#)
- [14th District PTA](#)
- [15th District PTA](#)
- [16th District PTA](#)

Districts are allowed to charge tuition for students admitted under the district's early admission policy, but no more than they charge students who meet the age requirements for enrollment. Resident and non-resident students may still have different rates. However, districts cannot charge tuition to any students who are eligible for free/reduced price meals.

Additional information can be found on the Kentucky Department of Education's website. Specific questions about kindergarten enrollment and the district's early admission policy should be directed to the local school district in which the student lives.

Awards and Scholarships

Following are deadlines for Kentucky PTA Awards and Scholarships.

February 15, 2017

\$500 Student Scholarship
\$500 Teacher-Member Scholarship
\$500 Parent-Member Scholarship
Christa McAuliffe Rising Star Award
Send completed applications to Kentucky PTA

February 15, 2017

SELF ESTEEM Award applications need to be sent to your District President. PTAs/PTSAs with NO district leadership should send application(s) to Kentucky PTA.

Deadlines for District Presidents

Self Esteem - winning entries should be sent to Kentucky PTA by March 1, 2017

March 15, 2017

Applications for Awards for Outstanding Membership Campaign Outstanding Classified Personnel, Outstanding Educator, Outstanding Local Unit Newsletter, Outstanding Male Involvement/Participation, Outstanding Programs/Projects, Outstanding School Nurse, Outstanding Volunteer, Outstanding Local Unit Website, Outstanding Volunteer Participation

For information about Kentucky PTA Awards & Scholarships go to the [Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook](#).