

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

# JANUARY 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 related items, please contact the Kentucky PTA office, 502.226.6607 or kyptapattyh@bellsouth.net. It is important that you send a copy of these completed items to Kentucky PTA for our records.

**Kentucky PTA Executive Board** 

## A Message from Kentucky PTA President

The New Year is a time of new beginnings. As PTA leaders maybe we can find new ways to reach and engage families in our school community that have not been involved in the past. Maybe we have new ideas of ways to remove barriers that keep certain students from reaching their full potential. Maybe we can develop a new program or strategy to encourage and/or motivate more students to feel special or be more successful. Our



Cherie Dimar

involvement, efforts and ideas really can make a difference in the lives of our students and families.

The Kentucky Legislative session has begun and some important bills about charter schools and school councils have been filed. The Kentucky PTA legislative team will be monitoring these and other related bills, and we will be keep you updated as things develop. It is important that we are prepared to contact our legislators when important issues arise. Be sure to check out the Legislative News section in this issue.

January is a good time to conduct another membership drive. New students may have enrolled in your school and new family members may be interested in getting more involved. For more ideas, see the Membership Corner in this bulletin.

Remember that the Kentucky PTA board is here to help, so reach out to us if you have any questions or need anything.

We wish you the best as we begin 2017!

PTA's Statement on the Secretary of Education Confirmation Hearing



National PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. Every Child in Focus is a campaign to strengthen family engagement in schools by celebrating the achievements and reporting the disparities within diverse populations, and sharing resources and advocacy tools to help understand the needs of every child.

To learn more, including each month's focus, visit PTA.org/everychild.



### **Every Student Succeeds**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, calls for parents to be meaningfully involved and consulted in the development of state and school district education plans.

Learn more from the national PTA's resource <u>"Family Engagement in the New Law"</u>.

#### 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



Laura Bay

A statement by National PTA President Laura Bay:

"[On January 4], the Senate announced the confirmation hearing for Betsy DeVos on January 11, 2017. We respect the confirmation process and pending her confirmation, we stand ready to work with Ms. DeVos to ensure that the priorities of National PTA are included in the new administration's education agenda.

"Our association remains steadfast in our approach of putting the needs of all children first by advocating for high-quality public education. National PTA supports public education as the major vehicle for preserving the basic values of a democratic system of government. This system must be strengthened with the support of adequate funding, and continue to be governed by public officials. We oppose any private school choice system-vouchers, tax credits or deductions-that would divert public school resources. [Read more]

### Legislative Update

KENTUCKY PTA LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR 2017

#### **CHARTER SCHOOLS:**

- 1. In order to prevent any service reductions and maintain equity, public charter schools must not divert funding from 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.
- 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, which includes parent engagement.

To learn more, read the National PTA's <u>Public Charter Schools</u> <u>Position Statement</u>.

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



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.

Reminder: the Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook is available on the KY PTA website, <u>www.kypta.org.</u>

And if you haven't explored the PTA's Back to School Kit, check it out at PTAkit.org.

Kentucky PTA Executive Board

**President** 

### **Dreamers Wanted**

If a person from the 1950s suddenly were transported to 2017, a lot of the things we take for granted might seem a bit like magic. Cell phones, an international space station, GPS devices and a giant telescope in space that enables us to see so far that we have gotten a glimpse of what the universe looked like when it was young.



Stephen Pruitt

Sometimes we forget what all of these technological marvels have in common - dreamers. Before a thing can be made, it has to be imagined. (Read more)

## Membership Corner

If your #1 New Year's resolution is "Be more involved in my child's education," join your PTA today!

January is another important back-to-school period and a great time to recruit new members. Parents are resolved to be more involved and new families may have moved into the community for the start of the second semester. The PTA's January Membership Campaign, with its theme of "New Year, New Opportunities," ties in with people's optimism and reminds parents that it's not too late to join.

Many PTAs/PTSAs run only a fall campaign. But units that run more than one campaign a year have, on average, 20% more members. That's because potential members have more opportunities to say "yes" to membership.

This month's membership incentive is the "Strive for Five" drawing for PTAs/PTSAs with a 5% membership increase over last year's number by January 15. The winner receives a certificate and a check from Kentucky PTA for \$50.

Want more information, program ideas and membership tips? Read on!

Nearly 1,000 youth and adults attended Children's Advocacy Day in 2016, and we need you to help pack the rotunda and ask elected officials to prioritize kids in the 2017 legislative session on February 9, 2017.

Cherie Dimar

President Elect
Janet Jones

VP Leadership & Outreach
Autumn Neagle

VP Organizational Services
Adam Kesler

VP Programs
Leeann Myers

VP Communications
<a href="Debbie Wesslund">Debbie Wesslund</a>

VP Membership Kathy Smiley

**Secretary** Heather McGovern

Treasurer Brian Wampler

Legislative Commissioner
Sharon Whitworth



**KYPTA** | find us on Facebook

148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601 kypta.bulletin@gmail.com

12th District PTA

13th District PTA

14th District PTA

15th District PTA

**16th District PTA** 



Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol began in 2004 to unite advocates from across the state to raise their voices on behalf of children's safety, health, education, and economic wellbeing. Hundreds of advocates from counties across Kentucky gather at the Capitol in Frankfort every year to rally on behalf of children and promote priorities on the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children, a coalition of committed agencies that are working together to make Kentucky a place with thriving communities, strong families, and successful kids.

<u>Click here</u> to become a Blueprint partner and a sponsor of the 2017 Children's Advocacy Day.

Kentucky Youth Advocates wants you to have the information and resources you need to take action during the 2017 legislative session. For example, we want you to feel prepared to talk with your legislators about pressing bills that will affect children at Children's Advocacy Day and throughout the session. Please click here to take a survey to tell Kentucky Youth Advocates how we can better equip you to stand up for kids.

# 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 <u>Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook</u>.

Kentucky PTA, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

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