

Building a "New Foundation"... In TODAY's Kentucky PTA!

# Kentucky PTA Bulletin



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

July 2015

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## Leadership Messages

### Kentucky PTA President Message Cherie Dimar

It will be my privilege to serve as Kentucky PTA President for the next two years. Having taught children with learning differences and having worked with their families - I am an advocate for children at heart - so PTA is a natural fit for me. I strongly believe that parents are the child's first teachers and that families play a critical role in each child's success in school. PTA provides opportunities for family members to effectively contribute to the educational process of each child.



Goals for next two years will revolve around these areas:

1. Family & School Partnership
2. Health and Safety
3. Members are Our Strength

Volunteering can be a lot of hard work, and sometimes we serve in less than favorable conditions, but it is important work and we strive to make every child's potential a reality. None of us has all of the answers or can accomplish everything on our own, but together we can achieve more.

All of you come from leadership positions in your schools and I want to thank each and every one of you for your hard work and commitment. We know how important it is that you help develop PTA. So let's get to work to make 2015 -2016 a great year!

## **National PTA President Message**

### **Laura Bay**

Today's PTA is strong and growing stronger every day. Your time, hard work and support is unparalleled. You are making a lasting impact on the lives and futures of our children. And for that, I would like to personally thank you. The strength of our association is in our diversity and inclusiveness. When we welcome individuals from all walks of life, and with a host of different talents, ideas and perspectives to our camp to work towards the same goals, we become a powerful voice for America's children. [Read more...](#)



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## **Kentucky Commissioner of Education Message**

### **Terry Holliday**

Summer is here. For students it marks the end of a year spent acquiring knowledge that will prepare them to succeed in the next grade and beyond. For parents it marks another year of supporting their children's education, from getting them to and from school on time, to attending PTA meetings and helping with homework assignments and science fair projects. For teachers it's the close of another year that saw them refining their instruction, finding new ways of engaging their students, and watching with pride as their students master new and sometimes difficult concepts. [Read more...](#)



## **Leadership Information and Resources**

### **Upcoming Events**

- 8/15 - Financial Review Form due to KY PTA
- 8/15 - Back to School membership dues payment
- 9/15 - Early bird membership dues payment
- 9/22 - Kentucky PTA Kids' Day
- 10/15 - Required membership dues payment
- 11/6 - Speaking Up For Children Advocacy Training

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### **Leaders' Notebook**

The Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook is available on the [KY PTA website](#).

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### **New Officer and Chairmen Information Form**

It is important to have the contact information for the new officers of your PTAs so we are able to send relevant information throughout the school year. Download the New Officer and Chairmen Information form [here](#).

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### **Back to School Kit**

We are excited to announce that the [2015-2016 National PTA Official Back to School Kit](#) is completely digital. It includes interactive resources to help your local PTAs kick-start a winning school year. The kit contains the same advice and quick-reference-guides that you have come to expect, that will help PTAs deepen their impact and venture into new territory.

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## E-Learning with National PTA - Free Learning Opportunity

The e-learning courses offered by National PTA are divided into three categories:

- PTA Essentials
- PTA Nuts and Bolts
- Leadership Enhancement

National PTA also has two courses in Spanish, Local Unit President and Board Basics. Check out these courses - only 20 to 40 minutes each - and enhance your PTA knowledge and leadership skills. The courses are located at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org). Go to the PTA Leaders tab at the top, click on for a drop down menu and look for e-learning.

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## Executive Committee

- President - Cherie Dimar at [kypta.president@gmail.com](mailto:kypta.president@gmail.com)
- President Elect - Bekki Livingston at [rjslivingston@hotmail.com](mailto:rjslivingston@hotmail.com)
- VP Leadership and Outreach - Mark Hartman at [markohartman@frontier.com](mailto:markohartman@frontier.com)
- VP Organization Services - Maria Sorolis at [mns3230@gmail.com](mailto:mns3230@gmail.com)
- VP Programs - Leeann Myers at [Leamyers1@aol.com](mailto:Leamyers1@aol.com)
- VP Communications - Liza Holland at [liza@lizaholland.com](mailto:liza@lizaholland.com)
- VP Membership - Kathy Smiley at [kthysmiley@yahoo.com](mailto:kthysmiley@yahoo.com)
- Secretary - Heather McGovern at [hmcgovern01@bellarmine.edu](mailto:hmcgovern01@bellarmine.edu)
- Treasurer - Brian Wampler at [bwampler68@gmail.com](mailto:bwampler68@gmail.com)
- Legislative Commissioner - Sharon Whitworth at [sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us](mailto:sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us)

## Membership

### Winners from Convention

Outstanding membership winners were recognized at the Kentucky PTA Convention at Fort Knox on July 11-12. See a full list of winners [here](#).

### National PTA Membership Kit

Check out national PTA's quick reference guide which contains information about the value of PTA, membership planning for recruitment and retention. [Click here](#) to see all the great resources available.

## Programs & Awards

### Outstanding Winners from Convention

- PAUL MASON LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AWARD
  - Dr. Terry Holliday, Commissioner of Education Kentucky Department of Education
- OUTSTANDING CLASSIFIED PERSONNEL
  - Elizabeth Waddle, Ruth Dunn EI PTA
- OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR
  - Dr. Jeanette Flower, Summit View EI PTA
  - Terri Griffin, LaGrange EI PTA
  - Michael Kelly, Crosby Middle PTSA
  - Michael Shires, North Pointe EI PTA

- Candy Thomas, East Oldham Middle PTSA
- OUTSTANDING LOCAL UNIT NEWSLETTER
  - Academy at Shawnee PTSA
- OUTSTANDING LOCAL UNIT WEBSITE
  - John F. Kennedy Montessori Elementary PTA
- OUTSTANDING MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN
  - New Haven EI PTA
- PENGUIN AWARD OUTSTANDING MALE INVOLVEMENT/PARTICIPATION
  - Thornwilde EI PTA
- OUTSTANDING PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS
  - Dixie Magnet EI PTA
  - Highland Middle PTA
  - New Haven EI PTA
  - Stonewall EI PTA
  - Summit View Elementary PTA
- OUTSTANDING SCHOOL NURSE
  - Carla Williamson, New Haven EI PTA
- OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD
  - Daniel Campbell, North Pointe EI PTA
- OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER PARTICIPATION
  - Longbranch EI PTA

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### Reflections

Katelynn Linet won an Award of Excellence in the PTA Reflections state contest for Literature and advanced to the national level. Other local state-level winners whose work advanced to national competition include Ajayteja Kavuri, Greathouse-Shryock Elementary, Primary Division, Award of Excellence at the state level, Kentucky Creative Interpretation Award, and Award of Merit at the national level. Read the full story about Katelynn [here](#).



The National PTA Reflections Program theme for 2015-2016 is Let Your Imagination Fly! Soon you will receive more information about the Reflections Program.

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### Kentucky PTA Kids' Day

Kentucky PTA Kids' Day is Tuesday, September 22, 2015. It is a special day set aside by Kentucky PTA just for our students. All children are special in many ways, yet too often we forget to tell them. Many children in our world do not have someone telling them they are special often enough to help them feel really good about themselves. Kentucky PTA Kids' Day was established to change that for as many of Kentucky students as possible. It reminds us to let all the children in our schools know that they are special. So plan a special celebration for your students!

When you complete your Kids' Day celebration, take a few minutes to write a report on it and file an application for an outstanding Programs and Projects Award. The Kentucky PTA needs to hear what you are doing so we can share it with other PTA's in the state. This is a good time to participate in the Kentucky PTA Self Esteem Award essay program. Entry forms are in the form section of the Leaders Notebook.

After you are finished with that, please do one more thing...**MAKE EVERY DAY KENTUCKY PTA KIDS' DAY!**

## Advocacy

### Senate Passes ESEA/NCLB Amendment

The U.S. Senate passed an amendment to the Every Child Achieves Act that would provide states and districts the capacity and necessary resources to implement family engagement strategies that are proven to make a difference for students and schools. The Every Child Achieves Act would reauthorize the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind (ESEA/NCLB), the primary law governing the federal role in K-12 education. Read the full press release [here](#).

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### Kentucky PTA Advocacy Workshop

Make sure to attend the Speaking Up For Children advocacy training for PTA Members on Friday November 6, 2015 from 9:30 a.m-5:00 [p.m.at](#) the Kentucky PTA Office in Frankfort. Download the registration form [here](#).

## Financial

### 2014-2015 Financial Review Forms

All PTA 2014-2015 financial reviews are due to Kentucky PTA on August 15. Download the [2015 Financial Review form](#) here to get started. If you have financial question, please contact your district president/contact or the Kentucky PTA Treasurer at [bwampler68@gmail.com](mailto:bwampler68@gmail.com).

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### Stay Connected

