



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

### March 2017 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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### A Message from Kentucky PTA President

It is time to start thinking about leadership for next year. Planning ahead can really net ( or get) you some great results. Here are some things to think about:



Cherie Dimar

Check your bylaws and **see when your nominating committee is to be elected.** It is the responsibility of the nominating committee to find the best qualified candidate for each office.

**Brush up the job descriptions** or create them if you don't have them. People want to know what they are committing to when they take on a position. How much time will it take? What skills will a person need to be successful in that role? Setting clear expectations will reduce unwanted turnover in the middle of the year.

**Think carefully about your nominating committee.** These should be influencers in

## Nominating Committee

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](#).

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## Awards and Scholarships

March 15, 2017 is the deadline for the following Kentucky PTA Awards and Scholarships.

- 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 and Scholarships go to the Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook.

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

Kentucky PTA Convention 2017

different communities within your school. PTA should represent the whole school community, so think broadly when asking people to serve. The nominating committee should have plenty of time to recruit.

Make sure you **consider diversity when looking for new leaders**. All parents are concerned about their kids. Many are not active because they have simply not been asked! Your PTA will be richer with a diversity of opinions, ideas, cultures and skill sets.

**Think about skill sets** - what skills would enhance your goals and objectives? It is handy to have an accountant as treasurer. Event planners would be a good fit. Marketing and communications - PTA often does not do that well. Think of the needs of YOUR PTA, then match the needs to your community.

Parent leadership is important. Give it the time and attention it deserves. The payoff is great for the kids!

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## National PTA Statement on President Trump's Address to Congress



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country.

[On March 1], President Donald Trump delivered his first address to Congress, outlining his vision for the

In the address President Trump called for the passage of school choice legislation. National PTA supports educational choices within public schools to meet the needs of all students and believes parents and families should be involved in all aspects of public school choice plans. However, there is a difference between public school choice programs and the use of taxpayer dollars for private school voucher programs.

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.

[Click here](#) for our District PTA grant application for this year's convention!

We are working hard to plan YOUR 2017 PTA Convention. Please help us by filling out this short survey. Just follow the link below.

Thank you! #kypta

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SRDMDSM>

## IMPORTANT DATES

**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**

"National PTA opposes any private school choice system - tax credits, vouchers or deductions - that would drain public school resources. Equitable, high-quality public education for all students is critical to children and to the nation's long-term success," said Laura Bay, president, National PTA. [\[Read more\]](#)

## Proposed Accountability System

One year ago I began a listening tour of 11 town hall meetings throughout Kentucky. During those meetings, I asked those who attended what they valued in the Commonwealth's public schools. This would serve as the basis for building our new accountability system under the Every Student Succeeds Act.



Stephen Pruitt

What we often heard was the new system should focus on the welfare of all students and promote good decision-making for their benefit. We were told that the system should reflect the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) guiding principles of equity, achievement and integrity. And we also heard that the data should be reported in a dashboard format to better illustrate how your child's school or district was progressing and where there was still work to be done.

We heard and we listened. [\[Read more\]](#)

## Kentucky PTA Legislative Priorities 2017

CHARTER SCHOOLS:

Student Recognition Program, Lexington, KY

June 22-25, 2017

National PTA Convention, Las Vegas

July 14-15, 2017

KY PTA Convention, Louisville, KY

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## Gift Cards Not Allowed

Teacher Appreciation Week is coming soon, so keep these guidelines in mind as you make plans to celebrate.

REDBOOK, Page 23

#13 - Booster clubs shall not pay or enhance salaries or stipends for any district employee. External support/booster organizations may, however, donate to the district/school for these purposes as long as the salaries paid are within the limits set by the local board.

This statement means the PTA is not allowed to purchase gift cards for school staff members. It is defined as a "cash equivalent" donation, which is unallowable.

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## National Reading Month



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.

1. Public charter schools must not divert funding from existing non-charter public schools. This will prevent any service reductions and maintain equity for all students.
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. This will ensure high quality education for all children.
4. Charter schools must adhere to the service standards for students with special needs (IEP and 504 plans) including the local education agency (LEA) responsible for providing these services, and how these services will be funded.
5. Charter schools must meaningfully engage parents in transparent authorization, review, and decision-making processes. At least two parents must be included on all levels of charter school boards.

### FUNDING:

1. Maintain or increase funding for adequate K-12 public school education.
2. Oppose any vouchers and tax credits that divert funding from existing non-charter public schools.
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. Parents are a major stakeholder in the education process and must remain in an active leadership/engagement role on all school councils.

[\[Read more\]](#)

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## Student Recognition, May 13

The Kentucky PTA Student Recognition Ceremony is Saturday, May 13, 1:00 p.m to 3:00 p.m. at the Lexington Children's Theatre, 418 West Short Street, Lexington, Kentucky, 40507.

State Reflections winners, Scholarship winners, Self Esteem and Rising Star winners will be recognized. All artwork entries will be displayed and refreshments will be served.

Save the date and help us celebrate the many accomplishments of these students! If you have questions, call the Kentucky PTA Office, 502.226.6607.

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## Kentucky PTA Executive Board

**President**  
Cherie Dimar

**President Elect**  
[vacant]

**VP Leadership & Outreach**  
Autumn Neagle

**VP Organizational Services**  
Adam Kesler

**VP Programs**  
Leeann Myers

**VP Communications**  
Debbie Wesslund

**VP Membership**  
Kathy Smiley

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## Action Alert



The Kentucky Legislature will vote on several important bills in the near future and Kentucky PTA

encourages you to contact your legislative leaders about the following bills in particular.

Ask your legislator to **vote NO** on **Senate Bill 54**, which would give superintendents powers that currently belong to councils.

- authority to set school policies in all areas listed in the main section of the law about council roles (curriculum, instruction, extracurriculars, assignment of students and staff, schedule, etc.)
- full authority to make personnel decisions, including principal vacancies
- ability to determine instructional materials
- authority to plan professional learning, and
- power to decide student support services.

The bill would leave principals with the responsibility to develop wellness plans and decide about educational displays in a school. Councils would become an advisory group.

Ask your legislator to **vote YES** on **Senate Bill 20** seeks more effective responses when youth get in trouble. The youth justice system is a maze that has too many entrances and too few ways out. SB 20 would modify the youth justice reforms made in 2014 to better hold youth accountable and keep communities safe.

Ask your legislator to **vote YES** **Senate Bill 195** seeks to help youth who get back on track expunge their records. When kids get back on track, we must help them be prepared to succeed in the future as productive citizens. SB

**Secretary**  
Heather McGovern

**Treasurer**  
Brian Wampler

**Legislative Commissioner**  
Sharon Whitworth

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195 would allow additional youth records to be expunged to ensure youth who stay on track are not held back from opportunities to learn, work, and contribute to their community.

Call the legislative message line, 800.372.7181 to leave your senator a message, or [click here](#) to find your senator's email information.

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

148 Consumer Lane,  
Frankfort, KY 40601

[kypta.bulletin@gmail.com](mailto:kypta.bulletin@gmail.com)

[12th District PTA](#)

[13th District PTA](#)

[14th District PTA](#)

[15th District PTA](#)

[16th District PTA](#)

## Encouraging the Active Learner

Parents can make a big difference in their children's schools, and many bring innovative ideas, and the leadership ability to put their ideas into action.



One has made such an impact by using her talents and connections to combat the one-desk-fits-all attitude of the past.

Sarah Rosenbalm, the third vice president of the Wilder Elementary PTA in Louisville, has worked with grant writer, Wilder mom, and former PTA treasurer Mary Stoneto bring more than 300 pieces of kinesthetic equipment into the school. Students and teachers enjoy standing desks, yoga ball chairs, bouncy bands, and a popular pedal desk. Much of the equipment has been donated, and a prolific September walkathon raised \$25,000 to continue the efforts. Most of the equipment is designed for students in grade three and older, and costs begin at \$14.

Her idea came last year, when Rosenbalm's son started third grade and she purchased a bouncy band for his desk. The rubber strip attaches to the chair's legs and allows him to bounce his foot while seated. [\[Read more\]](#)

