

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

Kentucky PTA Bulletin

October 2014

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

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Leadership Messages

Kentucky PTA President Message

Hello PTA Friends and Family!



Fall is always a busy season for PTAs. While establishing the programs and policies that will define your school year, remember that the intention of PTA work is to get families, schools, and communities to work together.

From preschool through high school, the continuity of the learning process and family engagement must be reinforced. A positive attitude can do a great deal to motivate students to reach their full potential.

Recent state academic assessment results show that Kentucky schools have made progress in many areas, which is good news, but there is still more work to be done. It is important for families to communicate with their child's teacher about how they can support the teacher and how they can help their child at home. As PTA leaders we must support the school's efforts to improve academic achievement.

We were all saddened to learn of the shooting at Fern Creek Traditional High School in Louisville. While the facts are still being gathered about this incident, any act of violence at a school is intolerable. It has been, and remains, a top priority of PTA to prevent and eliminate violence in schools, to promote safety for children and improve education. Included in this issue you will find a Checklist to Help Prevent Violence.

The Kentucky PTA board wants to thank you for your dedication to our students and for the important work you are doing for our schools and communities. You may contact me at kypta.president@gmail.com or our office personnel at 502-226-6607 or kentuckypta@bellsouth.net. We will be pleased to assist you.

Edward Squires

National PTA President Message

Otha Thornton

September 2014 marks the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP), the nation's first comprehensive law designed to prevent children and youth from entering the juvenile justice system and to protect those currently in the system. Juvenile justice and delinquency prevention has long been a key public policy priority of National PTA. The anniversary of the passage of the JJDP is an important time to reflect on the juvenile justice system in the United States and amplify the association's efforts to advocate for improvements. [Read more...](#)



Kentucky Commissioner of Education Message

Terry Holliday

Kentucky's goal is for all students to graduate from high school ready for college, career and life. In the past five years, the state's lawmakers, educators, policymakers, business leaders, community members and parents have rallied in support of this goal for the benefit of our students and our state. Driven by passage of Senate Bill 1 (2009), Kentucky has led the nation in education reform by requiring college- and career-readiness standards, which define what K-12 public school students should know and be able to do at each grade level; assessments that measure whether our students are meeting those standards; and an accountability system that holds our schools and teachers responsible for teaching these more rigorous, internationally comparable standards. [Read more...](#)



Leadership Information and Resources

Upcoming Events

- 11/15 - File 990 with IRS
- 11/15 - Membership Dues payment
- 11/17-21 - American Education Week
- 11/24 - Unity Day
- 12/15 - Membership Dues payment
- 6/26-28 - National PTA Convention in Charlotte, NC
- 7/9- 7/11 - Kentucky PTA Convention in Fort Knox, KY

Leaders Notebook

The Kentucky PTA Leader's Notebook is available on the [KY PTA website](#). Click on the tab at the top "For Members" and then find the Leader's Notebook for 2014-15. Contents include:

- All forms you will need throughout the year from membership reporting to awards and recognitions and scholarships - check them all out
- A section on Basics which includes bylaws forms if your need to renew those soon
- Financial Matters - everything regarding finance all your board members should be aware of
- Great ideas in the membership and program section

- And of course advocacy and legislation

E-Learning Library

There are now 14 E-learning courses available on the National PTA's website, including Board Basics and sessions for President, Secretary and Treasurer roles. Check out the full course offering online by [clicking here](#).

Executive Committee

- President - Eddie Squires at kypta.president@gmail.com
- President Elect - Cherie Dimar at kypta.preselect@gmail.com
- VP Leadership and Outreach - Mark Hartman at markohartman@frontier.com
- VP Organization Services - Kelly Capps at kelly.capps@uky.edu
- VP Programs - Leeann Myers at Leamyers1@aol.com
- Secretary - Liza Holland at liza@lizaholland.com
- Treasurer - Brian Wampler at bwampler68@gmail.com
- Legislative Commissioner - Sharon Whitworth at sharon.whitworth@jefferson.kyschools.us

PTA Spotlight

Annual Bobcat 5K Color Run Great Success

This was the second year that the Bullitt Lick Middle School (BLMS) PTSA, led by President Duke Fowler, has done the 5K Color Run. It is a fantastic community effort that brings together not only the members of the BLMS PTSA, but students, teachers and staff of BLMS and the community at large.



This is a great fundraising opportunity for the PTSA and also allows them to develop great community relations through marketing and sponsorship efforts. The BLMS PTSA plans to expand their run next year to accommodate more runners and possibly add another color station. This year they were able to purchase three different colors and set them up at different color stations along the route. It almost seemed like the volunteers at the color stations had more fun than the runners/walkers.

If you are looking for a fun and exciting new fundraising event for your PTA/PTSA, the Color Run could be a great option.

Membership

Tips for a Successful Membership Campaign

Membership growth is a sign that your PTA is a vital and relevant organization that is making a difference in your community. If your PTA is an effective, respected, and fun association, people will be eager to join. Check out the great tips below:

- Set up your membership table at every PTA and school event. Maintain a current list of members in case people forget whether they have already joined.
- Explain to potential members what your PTA does for your students and your school community. Remember, many people don't know everything your PTA does.
- Regularly include articles about membership and a membership form in your newsletter.

- Remember that the P does not just stand for parents, but also grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends, and neighbors. Many people help raise our children and we want them involved in PTA also.
- Remember that membership is sold all year long. Download the [National and State dues form](#) and [District dues form](#) to submit membership payments.
- Check out ways to [Save Money with Member Benefits Providers](#)

If you have any questions about membership, email Jennifer Jackson at kypta.membership@gmail.com. And make sure to keep promoting membership whenever possible!

Programs

Reflections Program

The National PTA Reflections Program recognizes student achievement in the arts. It's a wonderful way for your students to be recognized and helps your school meet the requirements for Program Reviews in Arts and Humanities and Writing. The theme for this year's program is "The world would be a better place if....." Check with your District Reflections Chairman for district deadlines. All PTAs in a district without leadership must have their entries to the Kentucky PTA Office by December 15. If you would like more info and the rules please contact Adrienne Thakur at PTA_Adrienne@yahoo.com.

Take Your Family to School

National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week will be from February 16-20, 2015. Held annually in celebration of PTA's Founder's Day, this year's theme will be Supporting Student Success, focusing on family engagement solutions that are proven to help prevent the risks associated with high school dropout. New this year - National PTA will ship a PTA Take Your Family to School Week Kit to a total of 200 PTAs including:

- The first 150 PTAs that sign up to host an event and
- 50 PTAs that receive a \$1,000 grant for hosting at least two events

All kit and grant recipients must be in good-standing with their State PTA and be a 501(c)(3). Below are the steps you can share to encourage local PTAs to take advantage of this opportunity:

- View the event sign up and grant application form to prepare for an online submission.
- Visit www.PTA.org/tyftsw to see the 2014 toolkit and consider the type(s) of event(s) PTAs can host.
- Register for and attend an informational webinar (If a PTA is applying for a \$1,000 grant, attending an informational webinar earns 5 bonus points in the application) on:
 - Monday, September 29 from 3 to 4 p.m. ET/12 to 1 p.m. PT.
 - Thursday, October 9 from 7 to 8 p.m. ET/4 to 5 p.m. PTA
- Complete event sign-up form by Monday, November 3 to be considered for the kit shipment.
- Click "YES!" to answering a few more questions on the event sign-up form and apply for a \$1,000 grant. Grant application deadline is Monday, November 3, 2014. Applicants that do not receive a grant but were among the first 150 sign-ups will receive the free kit.

- Celebrate Take Your Family to School Week with hundreds of other PTAs across the country February 16-20, 2015 and be featured on National PTA's interactive map and in promotion tools.

All PTAs are encouraged to celebrate PTA Take Your Family to School Week! In December, National PTA will promote a master list of events and interactive map at www.PTA.org/TYFTSW.

Smart Snacks in School

As part of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) included guidelines for "competitive foods" known as Smart Snacks for all foods and beverages sold to students throughout the school day. The new Smart Snacks guidelines apply to "competitive foods" that are not a part of the School Breakfast Program or National School Lunch Program. Smart Snacks rules set limits on calories, fats, sugar and sodium and encourage the consumption of dairy, whole grains, protein, fruits and vegetables. National PTA has officially launched our Smart Snacks webpage where you can find many resources regarding Smart Snacks. You can access these resources at PTA.org/SmartSnacks.

Checklist to Help Prevent Violence in Schools

1. Talk to Your Children
2. Set Clear Rules and Limits for Your Children
3. Know the Warning Signs
4. Don't Be Afraid to Parent; Know When to Intervene
5. Stay Involved in Your Child's School
6. Join Your PTA or a Violence Prevention Coalition
7. Help to Organize a Community Violence Prevention Forum
8. Help Develop A School Violence Prevention and Response Plan
9. Know How to Deal With the Media in a Crisis
10. Work to Influence Lawmakers

[View](#) the article in full on the National PTA website.

How to Encourage a Love of Reading and Learning in Your Child

The most important thing you can do for your child is to encourage a love of reading and learning. To begin, here are five ways:

- Every day, read to your infant or young child, or read with an older child.
- Show that you enjoy reading. Let your child see you reading books, magazines, newspapers, school notices and other written materials.
- Use your public library and discover its resources with your child. Talk about the kinds of books you want to check out. Make sure that everyone gets to check out a book!
- Use your television as a teaching tool. Watch it with your child and talk about what you are viewing.
- When you learn something new, share it with your child. Let your child see how learning continues throughout a lifetime.

Advocacy

15 Things To Engage in Your Child's Education in the Home, School and Community

There are many ways to play an active role in your child's education. To keep engagement top

of mind year-round, post these simple reminders in your home or office.

In the Home:

1. Develop a consistent routine for studying and homework.
2. Discuss your child's school day and homework daily.
3. Provide a quiet, well-lit place with basic school supplies for studying.
4. Assist with homework, but avoid doing it for your child.
5. Praise your child's efforts and encourage them to serve in student leadership positions.

In the School:

6. Attend parent-teacher conferences and make appointments, as needed, to discuss your child's progress or concerns. Meet your child's teacher(s), school principal and school nurse.
7. Establish the best way for your child's teacher to contact you (phone, email, backpack notes, etc.) to help reinforce school rules and expectations.
8. Attend your PTA meeting or start a PTA to voice your support or concerns.
9. Visit your school's website to stay informed on important information and events.
10. Attend school meetings on learning expectations, assessments and grading procedures.

In the Community:

11. Meet your child's friends and get to know their parents.
12. Learn about school district policies and practices that affect your child.
13. Raise awareness with local agencies and businesses about events taking place at your school.
14. Recruit parents and community members to be PTA volunteers.
15. Write, call or visit local or state decision-makers to support or oppose proposed legislation that affects your child.

Attend your next local PTA meeting. Find out how online at PTA.org/Join or call (800) 307-4PTA (4782).

Financial

The 990 Filing with the IRS - URGENT

PTAs fiscal year is July 1 to June 30. You are now able to file any of the 990 forms. Please forward a copy of your receipt to the state office at kentuckypta@bellsouth.net. All filings must be done **before November 15, 2014**.

Insurance

Many of you already enrolled with Underwriters, the KY PTA insurance agency, for your local PTA insurance. Because the Redbook regulations now mandate insurance, know that coverage is available through KY PTA. The rate is \$337 annually and covers \$1 million liability, \$7500 bonding, and Directors and Officers coverage Enrollment period starts September 1. You should have received enrollment letters, however if you are a new unit or have not received a letter yet, please contact Linda Cook at lindac@uscky.com or 502-489-6252. You must be a unit in good standing in order to have this insurance.

Financial Review - PAST DUE

The financial review form was due to the KY PTA on Friday, August 15. You can download the form [here](#). This review is for the 2013-14 financial year of your PTA.

KDE Redbook

PTAs and PTSAs across the state are impacted by the regulations in the 2013 edition of the Redbook. [Click here](#) to access the Redbook found on the KY Department of Education's website. Please note that some school districts have added policies related to the Redbook so if you have questions after reviewing the Redbook you should contact your central office finance officer. When reviewing the 2013 Redbook - go to the section entitled External Support/Booster Organizations. The site also has a FAQ section. The KDE contact is Susan Barkley - susan.barkley@education.ky.gov or (502) 564-3930.

If you have any financial questions contact your district president or the Kentucky PTA Treasurer at bwampler68@gmail.com.

Kentucky PTA | 148 Consumer Lane | Frankfort, KY 40601
502-226-6607 | kentuckypta@bellsouth.net | www.kypta.org

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