Who We Are

PTA Vision
Making every child's potential a reality.

PTA Mission
PTA is
- A powerful voice for all children,
- A relevant resource for families and communities, and
- A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

PTA Values
- Collaboration: We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- Commitment: We are dedicated to promoting children’s health, well-being, and educational success through strong parent, family, and community involvement.
- Accountability: We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- Respect: We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- Inclusivity: We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- Integrity: We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.

PTA Purposes:

Historical goals of PTA
- To promote the welfare of the children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

CALL TO THE 2013 KENTUCKY PTA CONVENTION/LEADERSHIP
JULY 18-20, 2013
CROWNE PLAZA AIRPORT, LOUISVILLE, KY

Kentucky Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (Kentucky PTA) hereby calls upon its membership to send duly accredited delegates to the annual Convention/Leadership to be held July 18-20, 2013 at Crowne Plaza Airport Louisville, KY.

Kentucky PTA Bylaws, Article XVI, Section 1.e, provides for the following representation: each local PTA/PTSA in good standing as shown on the records of the Kentucky PTA Office as of March 15 shall be entitled to be represented at the annual convention of Kentucky PTA by its president, or alternate, and one (1) accredited delegate, plus one (1) additional delegate for every twenty-five (25) members, or a major fraction thereof.

Article XVI, Section 1.f: a local unit PTA/PTSA in good standing is one which: 1) adheres to the Purposes and basic policies of PTA; 2) remits the national and state portion of dues to Kentucky PTA as required; 3) remits district portion of the dues as required; 4) audits the treasurer’s books and submits the PTA Financial Review Form to Kentucky PTA Office by August 15; 5) files with the IRS the proper Federal 990 Form and sends a copy to the Kentucky PTA Office by November 15; 6) has bylaws approved by Kentucky PTA every five (5) years; 7) has IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN) on file in the Kentucky PTA Office; and 8) maintains a minimum of ten (10) members.

Teri Gale, President
Susan Gardner, Secretary

Convention/Leadership Workshops

Classes will include, but are not limited to:

- Rachel's Challenge- Creating Safer Learning Environments
- WATCH D.O.G.S.- Dads of Great Students, HEROES of the HALLWAYS
- Officer Training (President, Secretary and Treasurer)
- Membership
- National PTA Representative
- Programs
- Leadership Styles/Volunteers
- Insurance
- Charitable Gaming
- Union Springs- A School Community Approach to Wellness
- Treasurer- Taxes
- Cyber Bullying
- Male Involvement
- Kentucky Core Academic Standards- KCAS
- Kentucky Department of Education Presentation on RED BOOK Requirements
- Bylaws and Standing Rules
- Diversity
- Safety in our Public Schools
From the desk of the President:

Many of you are in the same position as I am with only a few months left in your term. It is with mixed emotions that I am writing this last article. If you are like me you are feeling that you need more time to complete your goals. Many times we have a tendency to look at goals we did not accomplish and forget to look at all the great things we did accomplish. Just remember anything that you have done and will continue to do for the children of Kentucky is what counts. There is a special saying: “100 years from now it won’t matter what kind of car I drove, the house I lived in, or how much money I had, but the world may be a better place because I was important in the life of a child”. As you continue to the end of your term, make the transition a smooth sharing experience. Now is the time to help prepare the incoming officers with all of the tools they will need to make the goals for the next term become a reality.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our Convention/Leadership in July. For the outgoing officers it will be a time to celebrate your accomplishments, and for the new officers it will be a great learning experience. We are very fortunate to have some wonderful outside presenters this year such as Rachel’s Challenge, Watch D.O.G.S, School Safety, Kentucky Department of Education – New Redbook Regulations for PTAs, and A Community Approach to Wellness. We will also have workshops on Advocacy, Officer Positions, Insurance, Programs and Charitable Gaming. For more information visit our website or call Kentucky PTA.

I have enjoyed representing you on the various committees around the Commonwealth. Kentucky PTA has formed some great partnerships with the various Education Leaders of Kentucky, and we have made great strides in Internet Safety, Common Core Standards – Accountability and Assessments, maintaining a high parent involvement in the schools, and advocating for more funding for education. I wish you great success in the next year and Kentucky PTA will be here to assist you any way needed.

Teri
Kentucky PTA President, 2011 - 2013

Together - Making Strides for Student Success
Since the passage of Senate Bill 1 (2009) Kentucky educators have been focused on raising the academic standards that will enable our high school graduates to compete at the international level and succeed in college and careers.

These more rigorous academic standards – which help teachers ensure students have the skills and knowledge they need to be successful in life – have been developed by teachers, college professors, and national education organizations, and are called the Common Core State Standards. Forty-five states have adopted the standards, including Kentucky, where the standards are known as the Kentucky Core Academic Standards.

In Kentucky, the main driver for adopting the new standards was Senate Bill 1, which the General Assembly overwhelmingly passed in 2009, the same year I was appointed Kentucky education commissioner. I worked closely with key legislators and education-related agencies to form a Senate Bill 1 steering committee soon after I was hired. From the very first meeting with the steering committee and the General Assembly’s Interim Joint Education Committee, it was clear that Senate Bill 1 had been passed with the expectation that Kentucky would adopt the standards being developed by the National Governor’s Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers. The General Assembly did support and was aware of the standards that were being developed and were eventually supported by the by the Kentucky Board of Education, the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Education Professional Standards Board.

From the beginning, the standards were developed through an open process that included significant input from Kentucky teachers and college professors. There were several iterations of the standards that were publicized for teacher and public feedback. Kentucky teachers were very positive about the standards and felt that their collective voices had been heard.

The standards are not a national curriculum controlled by the federal government. As previously noted, the standards were developed by teachers and others who analyzed what the top countries in world education rankings are expecting of their students. I was present at all national meetings between the National Governor’s Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers where the standards were reviewed and finalized, and no one from the federal government was there dictating or suggesting what should be in the standards. The federal government is barred by law from dictating a national curriculum. Further, the Kentucky Board of Education and the Kentucky Department of Education are barred by state law from requiring a certain curriculum. All curriculum decisions rest with schools and districts. The standards define what students should learn, but it is up to our districts and schools to determine how they are taught by choosing their own curriculum and determining what resources and teaching methods are utilized.

The Kentucky Core Academic Standards are aligned with college and career expectations, and provide our state with much more rigorous standards in mathematics and English/language arts than were in place previously. I expect the same increased rigor will be present in science and social standards that the Kentucky Board of Education will review and act on in the coming months.

The ultimate measure of whatever standards we implement per Senate Bill 1 will be the percent of students who graduate from our high schools that are college and career ready. Since the implementation of the Kentucky Core Academic Standards in our state, we have moved from 34 percent of our graduates being college and career ready to 47 percent. We are proud of this progress, and we remain focused on our only agenda: ensuring all Kentucky public school students graduate high school college and career ready and prepared to help our state compete in a global economy.
ELECTION OF OFFICERS WILL BE HELD AT THIS 2013 CONVENTION/LEADERSHIP

NOTICE: Kentucky PTA Bylaws state: Article VII: Officers Election...Section 4.g. Nominees from the floor must have given thirty (30) days’ notification before the beginning of the annual convention/leadership conference of their intent to run. Notification must be given in writing to Kentucky PTA President, the Nominating Committee Chairman, and Convention Chairman. In the case of a person (persons) running from the floor, all delegates must register by noon on Friday, July 19 in order to get their voting card. No voting cards will be issued during the hours that polls are open on Friday. This will only be necessary if someone runs from the floor.

You will receive your delegate card prior to Convention/Leadership if you are pre-registered. Have your local PTA President, District President or contact person for your district sign your delegate card before coming to Convention/Leadership Conference.

Kentucky PTA Welcomes National Representative To Convention/Leadership Derrick Byrd

Derrick W. Byrd has been an advocate for children and families for more than 30 years and an active PTA member at the local, state and national level. Highly regarded for his work in various leadership positions for several non-profit organizations and governmental human service agencies, Derrick is an emerging, independent African-American leader of change and empowerment.

Working extensively in New York and North Carolina PTAs, Derrick is past president of the Wake County Council of PTAs and the Mount Vernon Council of PTAs. Derrick is past president of the Alfred Franko Middle School PTA and served on the Westchester District Board in various leadership positions until 1994. Derrick has served on the North Carolina PTA Board of Directors as Health and Welfare Commission Chairman and Vice President for Legislative Activity. Derrick has recently served as the Membership Committee Chairperson for the National PTA and served as a member representative on the National PTA Board of Directors, male involvement, CEO performance review, bylaws and resolutions committees.

Derrick served as the Secretary for the Covenant with North Carolina’s Children; Chairperson of the Policy Council for the Raleigh, NC-based Wake, Chatham, and Orange County Head Start program; Chairman of the Coalition for a Better Education in Mount Vernon, NY; President of the Board of Directors for HopeLine, Inc.; and President of the North Carolina Family-Based Services Association. Derrick is also the founding member of the Family Resource Center of Raleigh, Inc. He served as a member of the Raising Achievement and Closing the Gap Advisory Commission of the State Department of Public Instruction and currently is the co-chairperson of the Raising Achievement and Closing the Gap Committee for Wake County Public Schools.

Derrick is often featured and quoted in local and national press and publications, where he addresses a family involvement and engagement, fatherhood initiatives, advocacy, racial disparities and disproportionality, child welfare, child mental health and public education reform. He is listed in Cambridge’s Who’s Who of Distinguished Individuals and received several honors, including: National PTA’s Distinguished Service and Life Member Awards, Connecticut PTA Life Achievement Award, New York State and North Carolina Life Member Awards, Family Resource Center of Raleigh, Inc.’s 10 year Service Award and other local, state and national recognitions. Derrick has a master’s in Public Administration from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and a Bachelors of Science degree from Touro College. He is the father of two children, Alexander, 13, and William, 12.
**Nominees for Officers of Kentucky PTA 2013-2014**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Background/Experiences</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cherie Dimar - President Elect</strong></td>
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<td>Cherie Dimar has been involved in PTA for over 20 years. She has held various positions on local unit boards, including president, vice president of membership, and fundraising chair. She has served as vice president of board trainings and communications on the district level. Cherie currently serves as the President of the 15th District PTA and is on the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors. Cherie has a background in elementary and special education and has taught students with learning disabilities. Cherie and her husband John live in Louisville, Kentucky. They have three children and one grandchild.</td>
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<td><strong>Kelly Capps - Vice President for Organizational Services</strong></td>
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<td>Kelly currently serves on the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors in the office of 12th District President. She is also a local unit Treasurer and Student Involvement Chair. Kelly was a member of the Kentucky PTA office personnel for three years before joining the Board of Directors. PTA and education have been a passion of hers since her days at Eastern Elementary when her mother was a local unit officer. Kelly is finishing a double bachelor's degree in Accounting and Finance from the University of Kentucky and will graduate in December 2013. She then hopes to pursue a master's degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs.</td>
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<td><strong>Coleda Tackett - Vice President Awards and Programs</strong></td>
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<td>Coleda is a resident of Bullitt County, married to Larry Tackett Sr., has two children and four grandchildren. She has lived in Bullitt County for 27 years, during which she has volunteered and helped form PTSA at Bullitt Lick Middle School. Coleda worked for 19 years for Ohio Valley Educational Cooperative providing Family Literacy, Early Childhood and Adult Education, the last service as Regional Coordinator with the Kentucky Parent Information Resource Center. During those years Coleda worked collaboratively with Kentucky PTA to develop a training program, &quot;Building Strategies for Family and Community Engagement&quot;, around The Missing Piece Report. She currently works for the Bullitt County School district as a Title I Parent Liaison. Coleda has served on the Kentucky PTA Executive Board several years as commissioner of Programs and most recently as Vice President of Programs from 2010-2012.</td>
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<td><strong>Chris Tolliver - Vice President of Leadership Development</strong></td>
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<td>Chris currently serves on the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors as Vice President of Programs. He has been involved with PTA for over twenty years on both the local unit and state levels. He has previously served on the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors as Vice President for Programs and has been an Awards and Recognition Commissioner. &quot;Mr. T&quot; is in his 24th year with Hopkins County schools in Madisonville. He serves as the head band director and choral instructor at South Hopkins Middle School and Assistant band director and choral accompanist at Hopkins County Central High School.</td>
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<td><strong>Liza Holland - Secretary</strong></td>
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<td>Liza Holland has just finished her term as President of the 16th District PTA President. Liza has been involved with KY PTA for several years, serving on the Legislative Commission, and as a board member as District President. Upon recommendation of KY PTA, Liza now serves as parent representative on the Governor's School Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability Council. Liza has attended the National PTA Legislative Conference and several National PTA Conventions. She is a TCBI training graduate and a CIPL Fellow. Liza started her PTA career as president of Veterans Park Elementary and Lexington Traditional Magnet School. Liza believes in collaboration and dreaming big. She lives in Lexington with her husband, Rob and her children, Lucas and Sofia.</td>
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<td><strong>Mary Beth Carter - Treasurer</strong></td>
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<td>Mary Beth currently serves on the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors as a Commissioner of Organizational Services. She has been actively involved with the PTA for nearly 10 years holding several elected positions at the local level. In addition to her volunteer work with PTA, Mary Beth has served as a Parent Representative on SBDM. She is also a Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL) Fellow, which is funded by the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence. She has also completed Parents and Teachers as Arts Partners and has received training on the Common Core Standards through ReadyKentucky and Kentucky Core Academic Standards. Mary Beth has an extensive background in K-12 education technology, having worked for the past six years as a Public Sector Contract Specialist (including K-12) for Lexmark. Before that, she worked three years at the Kentucky Department of Education in Frankfort. Prior to that, she held similar posts at other firms (namely, IBM), bringing her total time in that field to nearly 15 years.</td>
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UPDATES AND REMINDERS…..

**Financial Review Forms Due** - Although these are not due until August 15 it is best to have your books reviewed now and get the form sent. This is especially true if you have a new treasurer coming in. Form is available at [http://www.kypta.org/site/members/local/leadersnotebook-2012-2013.html](http://www.kypta.org/site/members/local/leadersnotebook-2012-2013.html)

**Local PTA/PTSA Board Trainings** - Contact your district president/contact or the KY PTA office at (502) 226-6607 to arrange a date for a free Board Training session. This two hour session will cover a broad range of topics.

**$2000 Healthy Lifestyles Grant - Deadline June 28** - National PTA will award 25 Healthy Lifestyles Energy Balance 101 grants for $2,000 to local PTAs in support of healthy lifestyle family education events. These events should target grades PreK-5 (or schools that include grades K-5). With the grant, local PTAs will have resources to implement the Energy Balance curriculum to educate families on good nutrition and physical activity; empower families to partner with schools to advocate for healthy changes; and provide families with the tools to make positive changes in the home.

More information about the grant is available online at PTA.org/EnergyBalance, including the request for proposals and online application. Title I schools are strongly encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is June 28 at 5:00 p.m. ET.

These grants are funded by the Healthy Weight Commitment Foundation, which through its Together Counts™ program and 200+ members and partners, seeks to help significantly reduce childhood obesity rates by 2015.

**National PTA and it's partners present**: Fire Up Your Feet encourages families, students and schools to work together and create active lifestyles which inspire all children to be healthy and physically active. Centered around the school day, this website provides a full range of age-appropriate resources and educational materials to encourage physical activity to, from and at school. Any school or PTA group in the country can utilize these resources. Fire Up Your Feet fundraising provides PTAs and school groups a healthy, easy choice for a school fundraisers. It inspires your family, students and teachers to get moving to raise money for the cause of fighting childhood obesity and also make a big different in your school! More info at [http://fireupyourfeet.org](http://fireupyourfeet.org)

**2013-14 LOCAL LEADER MATERIALS FROM NPTA– BACK TO SCHOOL KIT – NOW DIGITAL** -

The National PTA Back-to-School Kit is going digital! This year, we’re saying goodbye to mountains of paper and packets for a new sleek, digital format that allows for more content, more sharing, and more resources to help your PTA reach its goals!

Inside the kit, you will find the same best practices and quick reference guides you have come to rely on. Plus, we are adding three new guides—Advocacy, Communications, and Fundraising—to help your PTA strengthen its activities in these critical areas.

Each section is accompanied by additional resources—printable and shareable tools, forms, and checklists that you can easily download, customize, and use.

More info at [http://www.pta.org/members/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1965&navItemNumber=567](http://www.pta.org/members/content.cfm?ItemNumber=1965&navItemNumber=567)

Having your 2013-14 officer information for correct and timely delivery is critical. Send your lists to your district president/contact or the Kentucky PTA Office, P.O. Box 654 (148 Consumer Lane), Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0654.

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**Web Addresses:**

- 14th District PTA: [www.14pta.org](http://www.14pta.org)
- 15th District PTA: [www.15thdistrictpta.org](http://www.15thdistrictpta.org)
- 16th District PTA: [www.fcps.net/partners/pta](http://www.fcps.net/partners/pta)
- Kentucky PTA: [www.kypta.org](http://www.kypta.org)
- National PTA: [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org)
Volunteers and Parent Involvement

**Check your volunteer program health!**

- Hold an orientation for prospective and returning volunteers to promote volunteering in school for the teachers and the students.
- Explain the ways volunteers are needed and offer optional days and times.
- Offer opportunities for volunteering from home, work, or for senior citizens to be involved.
- Encourage and find ways for dads, granddads, and uncles to be involved. Maybe they just need to be asked. National PTA’s survey found that to be true.
- Reach out to other populations served in your school community.
- Stress that volunteering means so much to any child and every child.
- Increase student achievement through parent involvement.
- Have a new parent orientation to discuss any school issues that parents need to know and to explain ways to become involved.
- Consider holding a volunteer orientation also in mid-year. This is a great chance to thank your volunteers and to offer new parents ways to become involved.
- Thank your volunteers at every PTA meeting, in your newsletters and when you see them in school.
- Place a volunteer sign-up sheet in the office for parents registering new students.
- Take time to evaluate your volunteer program in order to implement new ideas, follow-up, train, and promote volunteering in your school.

Don’t Spread Those Germs!

One of the easiest and most inexpensive preventative medicine strategies is available at your fingertips and costs less than one penny? It is called hand washing.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), “hand washing is the single most important means of preventing the spread of infection.” Hand transmission is a critical factor in the spread of bacteria and viruses causing disease such as colds, flu, and food-borne illness. See Tips on Hand Washing from the CDC.

There are four important principles of hand washing:
1. Wash your hands when they are dirty or before eating.
2. Do not cough into your hands.
3. Do not sneeze into your hands.
4. Above all, do not put your fingers in your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Avoid touching the eyes, nose, and mouth as this is where the vast majority of diseases enter the body. In fact, These are the entry point for 100% of all respiratory and gastro-intestinal diseases.

ParentInfo

Being a parent of a school-age child is no easy job. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) would like to offer some help.

Twice a month, KDE sends out an issue of ParentInfo, an e-mail newsletter with timely tips and ideas on how parents can help children succeed in school. Topics include college and career readiness, testing, school-based decision making councils, bullying, technology and more. ParentInfo also includes links to helpful resources on the Web. Go to [www.education.ky.gov/FormServ/Default.aspx?ID=ParentInfo](http://www.education.ky.gov/FormServ/Default.aspx?ID=ParentInfo).

Please pass this free subscription opportunity along to other parents by sharing this on your website, Facebook page or Twitter feed.

For questions regarding this, contact Susan Riddell at (502) 564-2000, ext. 4621.

To read previous issues of ParentInfo, go to KDE’s ParentInfo Archive page.
Presidents, you have been elected as a leader in your PTA. The first thing you should do is to catch the vision of where you want your PTA to be at the end of your term. Vision is everything for a leader. Vision leads the leader and helps you focus on your goals.

There are a few easy steps you can take to become a great leader and to set the course of the vision you will create this year.

- Meet with the principal to discuss how PTA can help the school. Meet with the outgoing president and learn from him/her. Be sure to obtain the procedure book and other resources from the past president.
- Read and understand your Bylaws. Make sure they are current. Read the Kentucky PTA Leaders’ Notebook and the National PTA Annual Resources now on CD-ROM, which you, as president, should have received.
- Fill your board. The executive committee should already be in place. This committee can help you to recruit other board members. Remember to be inclusive in your board representation. Involve and empower all areas of your school. Be sure to have school administration and teacher representation on your board.
- Set goals and plan activities according to the needs of the children/youth in your school.
- Delegate assignments and agree on responsibilities. Develop good leaders by attending and holding trainings and using the resources available to you.
- Organize – Set up a budget. Make a calendar and plan your board meetings, activities, and general membership meetings. Plan a membership campaign. Invite the entire faculty to join. Each president will receive a kit from National PTA about getting your PTA year started. This will help to make your PTA year the best ever.

True leadership isn’t about leading followers, it’s about building new leaders. Remember that PTA speaks for every child with one voice.

Unite your team. Have fun and “Catch the Vision” of making your year wonderful!!

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Catch the Vision of Good Leadership

“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say ‘It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.’ Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider these people my heroes.” ---Fred Rogers

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2013 National PTA Kindle Recipients

KY PTA is excited to announce that two local PTAs have received donations from Kindle thru the National PTA - Kindle partnership program. Nationally 85 PTAs received 10 Kindles each to implement the PTA Family Reading Experience, Powered by Kindle, as well as other programs that expand and enhance family engagement in schools

Per the in-kind donation eligibility requirements, each PTA selected has greater than 40 percent of the student population receiving free and reduced priced lunches. In addition, each PTA agreed to implement at least two Family Reading Experiences by May 31, 2014. Once cleared as eligible and “in good-standing” by your State PTA, these donation recipients were selected on a first come, first serve basis using the timestamp of their application entry.

Congratulations to the 2013 Kindle Recipients From Kentucky!

Alfred Binet PTA - Louisville, KY
La Grange Elementary PTA - La Grange, KY

-- Sherri Wilson | Senior Manager of Family and Community Engagement
Congratulations to our National PTA winners in Reflections. This year’s theme was “The Magic of a Moment”.

A special thank you to our sponsors:

Gold Level:
- Bill Young, State Farm Insurance
- Bob Dabney, River City Printed Products
- Kentucky Center for School Safety
- Kentucky Music Educators Association

Silver Level:
- Kentucky School Boards Association
- The Underwriters Group, Louisville

Supporters:
- Quantum Graphix, Louisville
- Robert Wagoner

GALLERY OF WINNERS

Sasha Anhouse
St. Matthews Elementary PTA, Award of Merit in Literature.

Jackson Gonzales
Liberty Elementary PTA (Fayette County), Award of Merit in Literature.

Cayden Bennett
Russell – McDowell Intermediate PTSA, Award of Excellence in Visual Arts.

Myo Zan
Morton Middle School PTSA, Award of Merit in Literature.

Photo Not Available
“Coming Home”

By Cayden Bennett of RMIS in District 26 who won 1st place in Kentucky and won an Award Of Excellence in Nationals for Intermediate Visual Arts

Submitted by Russell McDowell
Intermediate PTSA

Reflections Theme
“Believe, Dream, Inspire “
2013-2014
Take the First Step in Becoming a National PTA School of Excellence—Enrollment is now open! Enroll before September 1, 2013

Whether you are looking to step-up your PTA’s involvement in school improvements or something meaningful is happening between your PTA and school that deserves recognition, you will soon have a new opportunity to make a substantial, positive impact on school and student success.

The National PTA School of Excellence program helps PTAs strengthen the family-school partnership and make measurable progress together in one of three areas:

- Education
- Health and safety
- Arts and cultural exploration

At a National PTA School of Excellence, families feel welcomed and empowered to support student success, and PTA is a key partner for continuous school improvement.

What does it take to become a National PTA School of Excellence?

- Enroll your PTA between May 1 and September 1, 2013 at PTA.org/Excellence or via phone at 800-307-4PTA (4782). You will receive the Getting Started Guide, which describes program components, including your first steps to gather feedback from families and set goals with your school partner.
- Conduct a Family-School Partnership Scan and share your results with National PTA.
- Receive a customized Roadmap to Excellence containing recommendations that respond to your specific results from the Family-School Partnership Scan.
- Complete the National PTA School of Excellence application before June 1, 2014.
- Celebrate your excellence! All National PTA School of Excellence recipients will receive a toolkit to support celebration activities.

Enroll before September 1, 2013! Contact excellence@pta.org for more information.
Parents Agree: Funding Shortfalls Shortchange Students, Families, and Communities

Much has been made of the divisions pointed out in the 2012 PDK/Gallup Poll of the Public’s Attitudes toward the Public Schools released recently. Public perception varies widely on issues from the college-readiness of all students to school vouchers.

Perhaps more revealing are the issues on which our nation agrees. We agree we need to close the achievement gap, support schools in urban areas, and do something about the lack of financial support plaguing our schools.

In fact, the poll showed lack of funding for education as the No. 1 concern of parents, outdistancing the top response from 10 years ago, drugs and violence in schools. Nationally, 35 percent of responses cited lack of funding as the biggest challenge facing their schools. Among public school parents, 43 percent cited funding as the biggest challenge. Regrettably, the challenge will loom even larger if the $1.2 trillion in across-the-board cuts Congress agreed to in last summer’s debt limit deal materialize this coming January. “Sequestration” would have a potentially devastating impact on public education funding, and would disproportionately affect high need districts already struggling to do much more with far less. Our public education system is facing a very frightening and very real reality.

What’s worse is that lack of funding contributes to so many of the other issues affecting student achievement, whether it’s the achievement gap, the dropout rate or even the nutritional value of school lunches. It’s no wonder that 70 percent of respondents support giving parents whose children attend a failing school the option of mounting a petition drive to request removal of the teachers and principal.

Enrollment is up. Need is up. Resources are down. With so many struggles, parents and communities must be empowered to drive change, but until education funding becomes a top priority in state capitals and on Capitol Hill, parents need to think beyond their individual communities and advocate for all children in every district, across their state and across the nation. The challenges that parents face are shared, as should be fighting for the solutions.

What can you do? A simple phone call or e-mail can make all the difference. Parents must reach out to their legislators and encourage them to prioritize education funding in the face of deep deficit reductions. Parents can also mobilize behind the implementation of Common Core State Standards, which three out of four Americans believe will provide more consistency in education and help the nation compete globally, according to the poll. Parents can also join PTA so their voice can join with 5 million others speaking out for children in the nation’s capital and in state capitals across the country.

The bottom line is that parents must be engaged in the process. Education reform, on any scale, will prove unsustainable without the support of parents. Period. In fact, few factors can influence student achievement more than parental engagement. This fact, coupled with their collective voice, empowers parents to be the real agents of change.

As parents, we strive to protect our children from harm and to ensure quality educational opportunities. Change begins in the community, but the nation benefits from change occurring on broader levels. Too many parents believe they don’t have the voice or authority to bring about the changes necessary to ensure the success of their children. However, speaking together as one voice — millions of parents nationwide can and will force our elected officials at the local, state and national levels to take notice and prioritize children. Together, we can demand better education that is both equitably financed and reflective of our nation’s shared interest.
**Required**

**2012-2013 Financial Review Form (formerly Audit Report Form)**

**Deadline:** August 15, 2013*

ALL PTAs/PTSAs MUST FILE WITH THE IRS - E-MAIL IRS Form 990 N DUE by 11/15/2013

if your income is normally less than $50,000

If your income was $50,000 to $200,000 complete 990-EZ, with Schedule A and Schedule B, if necessary, - DUE to the IRS by 11/15/2013

If your income is over $200,000 complete 990 with Schedule A and Schedule B, if necessary, DUE to IRS by 11/15/2013

Mail this Financial Review Form to Kentucky PTA, P. O. Box 654, Frankfort, KY 40602-0654

*Kentucky PTA and local unit bylaws require all PTAs and PTSAs to file a Financial Review Form with Kentucky PTA by August 15, each year, to remain a “unit in good standing.”

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**Financial Review Report Form for the Local PTA/PTSA**

Name of PTA/PTSA  ________________________________________  PTA District ___  County ____________

This financial review is for the 2012-2013 fiscal PTA/PTSA year.

(For most PTAs/PTSAs this will be July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Check your bylaws if unsure.)

1. **Beginning Balance** (as of last date covered by last financial review)  $________

2. **Receipts** (total receipts from the beginning to the end of the period covered by this financial review)  __________

3. **Total Cash Available** (add number 1 and number 2)  __________

4. **Disbursements** (total disbursements from the beginning to the end of the period covered by this financial review)  __________

5. **Ending Balance** (subtract number 4 from number 3)  __________

6. **Bank Statement Balance** (for last month covered by this financial review)  __________

7. **Checks Outstanding**  __________________________________

   __________  __________  __________  __________

   __________  __________  __________  __________

   __________  __________  __________  __________

   __________  __________  __________  __________

   Total Checks Outstanding  $ __________

8. **Bank Account Balance** (Subtract number 7 from number 6)  $ __________

Date of financial review:  ________________________________________

We have examined the books of ________________________________________PTA/PTSA for the financial

year 2012-2013 and find them to be:  (Please choose one)

___Correct  _____ Substantially Correct  ____Incomplete  ___Incorrect

Substantially correct with the following adjustments:  __________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Comments:  _____________________________________________________________________________

Signatures:  Financial Review Committee Chair (or professional auditor)  ________________________________________

2. (member)  __________________________________  3. (member)  __________________________________

This Financial Review information should be presented to the PTA/PTSA at its first general meeting

after the completion the financial review.

Remember to mail this report to Kentucky PTA and keep copies for your records.
"MAKING STRIDES FOR STUDENT SUCCESS"
Kentucky PTA Convention/Leadership
Registration Form

CROWNE PLAZA AIRPORT, LOUISVILLE, KY
JULY 18-20, 2013
THESE FEES WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL JULY 1ST, 2013

Name______________________________________________________ E-Mail ________________________________

Representing_____________________________________________ PTA/PTSA

Address____________________________________________________
(Street Address/P.O.Box/Route) City State/Zip Code

Home Phone_________________________Work/Cell Phone_________________________

Registration Fees:
For first person -- $150.00 / For additional person(s) registered by your PTA -- $125.00
All entries must be mailed at the same time for the above special rates.
The early registration fee is effective only through July 1st.
Please use a separate registration form for each attendee.

Please check all appropriate information for registration and badge:

☐ Voting Delegate ☐ Honorary Life Recognition Member
☐ First time attending Convention/Leadership

Registration includes: Admittance to all Workshops, Exhibit Area, Banquet Thursday night, Friday luncheon and Saturday luncheon.
Additional meal tickets may be purchased for each event for a cost of $30.00. Please complete the registration form and indicate date.

☐ I give my permission to Kentucky PTA to use photos taken at Convention/Leadership to be published only in Kentucky PTA publications, on the website, and on facebook.

Amount enclosed $ __________
Dietary Restrictions ______________________________

Please mail all forms and check made payable to:
Kentucky PTA, P.O. Box 654, Frankfort, KY 40602-0654
Phone (502) 226-2207
E-mail kypptapattyh@bellsouth.net
Redbook and Your PTA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE NOTE: Redbook has made some significant changes that will TAKE EFFECT ON JULY 1, 2013 and may impact your incoming PTA/PTSA Board for fiscal year July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014.

What is Redbook? - It is the "Accounting Procedures for School Activity Funds" handbook that provides a method of uniform accounting for school activity funds. This handbook is incorporated by reference and is part of the Kentucky Administrative Regulation 702 KAR:3:130.

There are some NEW guideline changes to the Redbook handbook, which will affect all booster organizations and external support groups in schools. Organizations, such as Beta Club, cheerleaders, the Class of 2015, and PTAs/PTSAs are included.
YES, this means that all PTOs must comply also..

In a nutshell, the changes to these guidelines state that:
A. External Organizations are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with IRS, Title IX, Redbook, etc
B. District employees may serve as members or hold executive board positions, except for treasurer or other officer with signing authority on bank account. School employees can, however serve on these boards in other capacities, as long as they don't handle money.
C. Local board members may serve only as general members of an external booster group
D. School activity fund shall not reimburse these organizations for any purchases
E. These groups shall not pay or enhance district employee's salaries or stipends directly
F. Clarifies possible remedies when support groups do not comply with the Redbook
G. Must carry insurance for general liability

These changes could affect some PTAs/PTSAs and may present a challenge for some units. These new guidelines will be enforced beginning July 1, 2013. Ky Dept of Education has made a video available that may be helpful in understanding these changes /If you have, entitled "What Boosters Need to Know" - it is 10 minutes in length. You can find this and more info on changes at the Ky Dept of Education website at http://education.ky.gov/districts/FinRept/Pages/Accounting-Procedures-for-School-Activity-Funds.aspx

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please call KY PTA office at (502) 226-6607.

We Want You!

Looking for hard working volunteers!

If you are interested in serving on the Kentucky PTA Board 2013-2015

Contact:
Eddie Squires
Kentucky PTA President-Elect
(502) 930-3516
esquires.kypta@yahoo.com
Kentucky PTA
P.O. Box 654
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

If you are no longer PTA/PTSA president, please forward this and all mailings IMMEDIATELY to your successor and send the current president’s name and address to the Kentucky PTA Office.

Character Quality of the Month: Attentiveness

Attentiveness (vs. Distraction)

To practice Attentiveness, I will...

- look at people when they speak to me
- ask questions when I do not understand
- sit or stand up straight
- not draw attention to myself
- keep my eyes, ears, hands, feet, and mouth from distractions

Paying attention to people or tasks requires concentration and focus. It requires the use of all of our senses to focus and to consciously block distractions. Sometimes it helps to know why being attentive to someone or something is important. Relating attentiveness to a goal rather than just for the sake of paying attention helps to stay motivated.

—The Character Council of Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky

http://www.charactercincinnati.org/education.html

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013

JUNE
20-23 -- National PTA Convention
Cincinnati, OH

JULY
18-20 -- Kentucky PTA Convention
Leadership, Crowne Plaza
Louisville, KY

SEPTEMBER
24 -- Kentucky Kids Day