May 2018 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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Things to Do in May and June

- Find your bylaws and determine if you need to fill vacancies or hold an election.

- After your election, even if officers do not change, please complete the 2018 - 2019 PTA/PTSA Officer & Chairman Information Form and send it to the Kentucky PTA. If your election is not held until classes resume in the fall, give us the name of a contact person for the interim.

- Both returning and newly elected officers are welcome to attend the Kentucky PTA Convention on July 20 & 21 in Louisville, Kentucky. This is an excellent time to

A Message from Kentucky PTA President

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost over. This is a good time to reflect on this year's successes and challenges. Here are some questions to consider:

- Which events or programs were successful and which need to be modified?

- What were the best training experiences for your PTA leaders and what additional trainings do your leaders need?

- How can the PTA continue to improve its connections with parents, teachers, school administrators, and your community?

Besides being a very busy time of the year, the leadership transition of one PTA board to another can be very stressful. If you are an outgoing president/officer please make time to meet with the next president/officer and share information. Being mindful of finishing your job before you move on will help ensure the continued success of your PTA.

Giving Thanks to All of Kentucky's Teachers

I wanted to begin this issue with this statement.
Wayne Lewis introducing myself. Like
many of you, I am a lifelong
educator. And I am
honored and excited to be
serving as Kentucky's
interim commissioner of
education.

I am currently on leave
from the University of
Kentucky, where I am an
associate professor of
educational leadership. I'm a New Orleans native and
have taught middle and high school special education in
the New Orleans and St. Charles Parish Public Schools in
Louisiana and Wake County Public Schools in North
Carolina. While I may have started out in NOLA, I've had
the pleasure of calling Kentucky my home for the past
nine years.

I have another connection to public schools in Kentucky
as well. My wife is a former teacher and current high
school counselor. We have a 3-year-old daughter who will
soon be joining the ranks of the 650,000 children who
attend Kentucky's public schools. [read more]

Student Recognition
The Student Recognition Ceremony was
Saturday, May 12, at the Lexington
Children's Theatre. Students winners were
recognized in the areas of Reflections, Self
Esteem, Rising Star, and Scholarships.

Six students from Kentucky were named
National PTA Reflections Winners, including:

**Award of Excellence - Visual Arts**
Katie Ross Nelson

**Award of Excellence - Photography**
Sydney Jenkins

**Award of Excellence - Photography**
Natalie Keckler

**Award of Excellence - Choreography**
Haylee Richter

**Award of Merit - Choreography**
Elise Trimble

**Award of Merit - Film Production**
India Smith

For a list of all winners, click [here](#).

The 2018-2019 Reflections theme was
announced. "Heros Around Me" is the
theme young artists will use to create their
next award-winning pieces. For more
information on starting a Reflections contest
in your school, call 502.226.6607 or
email reflectionskypta@gmail.com. Updated
information is available this summer at
kypta.org.

Call to the 2018
Kentucky PTA Convention

The Kentucky PTA Congress of Parents and Teachers,
Inc., hereby calls upon its membership to send duly
accredited delegates to the Convention to be held on July
20 & 21, 2018 at Seneca High School in
Louisville, Kentucky.

Kentucky PTA Bylaws, Article XVI: Kentucky PTA Annual
Convention
Section 1.

e. Each local PTA/PTSA in good standing as shown on
the records in the Kentucky PTA Office thirty (30) days
before the Kentucky PTA Annual Convention, shall be
entitled to be represented at the Annual Convention of the
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.

#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 Kentucky portions of dues
to Kentucky PTA as required;
3. Remits District portion of the dues as required;
4. Reviews the treasurer's books and submits the
PTA Financial Review Form (formally the audit report
form) to the Kentucky PTA Office by July 15;

Important Dates

**June 21 - 24, 2018**
National PTA Convention, New Orleans, LA

**July 20 - 21, 2018**
Kentucky PTA Convention, Louisville, KY
This is 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.

Current and incoming board members, administrators, teachers, and students are invited to attend. Leadership training is a legitimate PTA expense, so include this in your budget.

Click here to download a registration form and click here to download a grant application.

KY PTA Executive Board

President
Cherie Dimar

President Elect
Heather Wampler

VP Leadership & Outreach
Eddie Squires

VP Organizational Services
Adam Kesler

VP Programs
Vicki Manning

VP Membership
Kathy Smiley

VP Communications
Debbie Wesslund

Secretary
Virgil Berrong

Treasurer

5. Files with the IRS the proper Federal 990EZ or 990N (e-postcard) and sends a copy to the Kentucky PTA Office by November 15th;
6. Has bylaws approved by the Kentucky PTA every five (5) years;
7. Has an IRS Employer Identification Number (EIN) on file in the Kentucky PTA state office; and
8. Maintains a minimum of ten (10) members.

Cherie Dimar, President
Virgil Berrong, Secretary

Action Alert

Kentucky PTA statement about potential state takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools:

PTA's mission is to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. In Kentucky, PTAs are active in many schools, meeting basic needs of children, supporting educators and advocating for policies and funding to provide healthy, productive learning environments.

PTA knows where the work happens: in local schools. And, because of that, PTA has been a strong supporter of local decision-making, at the school level and school board level. Parents have a strong voice in district decisions regarding the schools they pay for through state and local taxes. This local decision-making power allows schools and districts to design programs and policies to meet the needs of their communities.

The potential takeover of Jefferson County Public Schools by the Kentucky Board of Education would take away this local control, and virtually eliminate parental voice in decisions that impact policies from the district level to the classroom level. For this reason, the Kentucky PTA is restating its strong support for maintaining parent voice through local school and local board decision making.

JCPS has 30 days from the date of the recommendation of state management to request a hearing/appeal before the state board - deadline for action is May 30. That decision whether to appeal will be made by the Jefferson County Board of Education. The Board will most likely take this action at its next meeting which is May 29. It could call a special meeting for that purpose, but has not announced plans to do that.

If JCPS appeals, the hearing will be held a minimum of 20 days after the notice of hearing is issued by the Kentucky Board of Education.

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state board will not take any action at this time on the Commissioner's recommendation of state management. However, it may receive a report about the status of the process.

CALL TO ACTION: Email or call the Kentucky Board of Education members and let them know that you support maintaining the parent voice through local school and local school board decision making. Click here for contact information.