February 2019 Bulletin of the Kentucky PTA

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Important Dates
Feb. 10-17, 2019

A Message from Kentucky PTA President

The 2000 men and women who met in Washington D.C. on February 17, 1897 (to found what is now the National PTA) shared two concerns: the conditions under which children were living and the future of the nation. These two basic beliefs -that children are the future and that everyone needs to care about children - have guided PTA programs, projects and advocacy efforts for the last 122 years. We are united by this common concern. Take time to celebrate what our founders did and what your PTA has done to help better the lives of children and youth.

During this busy legislative session, the Kentucky PTA legislative team is monitoring issues important for all children in Kentucky. You can be effective advocates by letting our elected officials know where you stand on issues.

Kentucky PTA provides a number of awards and scholarship opportunities. Take time to look through the awards and scholarships listed on our website at www.kypta.org

Sometimes, it is necessary to make budget amendments. Your PTA could have had a very successful fundraiser that you underestimated, or your fundraiser didn't turn out so
Celebrating Family Engagement

For over 120 years, National PTA has been encouraging families to get more involved in their child's education. Help us celebrate PTA's long legacy of family engagement during National PTA's Take Your Family to School Week—Feb. 10-17, 2019 by hosting an event at your school.

Sponsored by Office Depot OfficeMax

2019 Take Your Family to School Week Toolkit

Thanks for helping us celebrate Take Your Family to School Week! Choose one of the National PTA program categories to plan your event and create a theme for your week:

- Health & Safety
- Literacy
- Digital Learning
- STEM

You have the freedom to design whatever type of event works for you and your school community! Check out the resources below to better plan and promote your event.

Step 1: Choose Your Event Type
Step 2: Promote Your Event
Step 3: Host Your Event
Step 4: Wrap Up Your Event

Growing Our Membership Every Month

Membership is a year-round effort. It never ends. As PTA ambassadors, leaders are to constantly promote the value of PTA, and with it, ignite interest in our mission for people to join in. Our PTA voice is more powerful, and our PTA advocacy is stronger the more members we have.

The new year is full of additional opportunities to invite everyone to join PTA this second half of the National PTA membership year (7/1-6/30.) What are those opportunities?

- To begin with, all of your remaining meetings and activities in your PTA calendar for this year.
- To continue, all National PTA programs and activities to celebrate Take Your Family to School Week (TYFTSW). Choose one of the National PTA program categories (Health & Safety, Literacy, Digital Learning, STEM) to plan your event and create a theme for your week. On February 17, 2018, PTA celebrates 122 years of existence advocating to improve the education and well-being of all children. At your Take Your Family to School Week activities, enthusiastically and confidently invite everyone in your community to “Be part of our PTA history and join our PTA.”
- In March, take advantage of our PTA Family Reading Experience resources available at PTA.org/FRE to celebrate National Reading Month. This is a great opportunity to work with your local librarians to get families (adults and children) to visit their local public libraries, encourage them to sign up to obtain their library cards and borrow books to read at home. In the process, don’t forget to invite all families and community members to support similar PTA efforts by joining your PTA.

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https://ui.constantcontact.com/rnavmap/emcf/email/view?flow=view&camefrom=view&campaign=65781370-0aa1-4e4e-a422-7d64ce735d9e
Founders Day and African American History Month

Both PTA Founders Day and African American History Month have significance for PTA. At the national level there are three women who are considered our “founders”. Alice Birney (left) and Phoebe Apperson Hurst (center) were the leaders who formed, on February 17, 1897, what is now the National PTA.

In later years the National PTA helped Selma Sloan Butler (right) found the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers. When the two organizations merged in 1970, so did their identical mission to improve children’s lives.

Read more about the joint history of Founders Day and African American History Month here.

Kentucky PTA Legislative Update

Kentucky PTA promotes and supports legislation designed to protect all children and youth, to meet their educational needs including college and career readiness as well as their health and welfare needs, in order that they may be better prepared to assume the ever-increasing responsibility of citizenship.

During the 2019 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly, Kentucky PTA will be following bills that have a direct impact on teaching and learning for teachers, parents, and students.

Senate Bill 3 (School Based Decision Making (SBDM) - School Councils) was filed on the first day of the session - Tuesday, January 8; approved by the Senate Education Committee on Thursday, January 10; and on Friday, January 11, the bill passed the Senate. This bill will now head to the House and must first have a hearing before the House Education Committee.

Areas of concern about SB 3:

1. Grants the superintendent the sole authority to fill principal vacancies, instead of the current system, which allows principal selection to be a joint decision with the superintendent and SBDM members.

2. Provides that SBDM policies shall be consistent with district policies; thus, school boards could dictate what policies govern individual schools. SBDMs would take on a more advisory role and not have an authentic voice.

3. Removes one teacher member from the school council; thus, the school council membership configuration would be 1 principal: 2 teachers: and 2 parents. According to a 1995 Kentucky PTA Resolution - we should urge legislator's support to expand parental involvement by adding a parent and not removing a teacher representative - so there will be an equal number of teachers and parents on the council.

Senate Bill 3 will drastically alter School Based Decision Making in Kentucky. We need to help the House Education Committee members understand how SBDMs contribute to school success. It makes sense to allow decisions to be made by educators and families who know the challenges that individual schools face and who see students and families every day. Parent and community engagement in education decision-making is an important element in Kentucky’s system of accountability and educational progress.

Did You Know?

Selena Sloan Butler founded the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers in 1926 in states where segregated schools were legally sanctioned & President Selena Butler presented early-childhood information at conference in Great Britain in the 1930s.

KY PTA Executive Board

President
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Our PTA Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit and the PTAKit.org guide for organizing a PTA Program are great resources to help you plan and celebrate national awareness on issues such as:

Read More
Kentucky PTA Scholarships, Rising Star and Self-Esteem Awards
DUE: February 15, 2018

Scholarships
Kentucky PTA awards scholarships each year to:

1. High School seniors who plan to attend a Kentucky accredited university and pursue a degree in education.
2. A parent PTA member who is continuing his or her studies in a health field and will attend an accredited Kentucky college or university.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING YOU TO DO:
Call the LRC Message Line and say you would like to leave a message for every member of the House Education Committee.
The LRC message line can be reached at (800)372-7181 between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Monday-Friday (EST) (Beginning Tuesday, February 5, the LRC message line will close at 9:00 p.m.)

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol is Next Week! Have you registered?

Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol is Next Week! Have you registered?

Kentucky kids need advocates like you to speak up on their behalf on Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol and throughout the 2019 Kentucky legislative session.

With Children's Advocacy Day only three weeks away, be sure to register to join advocates and youth from across Kentucky in Frankfort on February 13th. As you prepare for Children's Advocacy Day, check these to-do items off the list:

Attend the prep webinar on January 30th to learn how to be confident in attending Children's Advocacy Day and advocating on behalf of children during the 2019 General Assembly. Register here.
Find out who represents you in Frankfort and how to contact them here. Be sure to set up a meeting with your legislators now for Children's Advocacy Day.
Learn more and advocate for Blueprint for Kentucky's Children priorities during the 2019 Kentucky General Assembly here. And check out the Kentucky General Assembly Bill Tracker to stay up-to-date on Blueprint legislative priorities and other bills that are good for kids here.
Review the schedule for the 2019 Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol.
Register Here

Your Membership Dues Help PTAs

https://ui.constantcontact.com/na/v3/email?flow=view&camefrom=view&campaign=65781370-0aa1-4e4e-a422-7d64ce735d9e
3. Teacher PTA members who are working toward a master's degree or Rank 1. Funding for the yearly scholarships comes from the fees from the Honorary Life Membership and other donations.

Rising Star Award
Kentucky PTA's "Christa McAuliffe" Rising Star Award recognizes students who have successfully worked through obstacles to improve performance in school, character and self esteem.

Grades P-1, Elementary 2-4, Elementary/Middle 5-8, High School 9-12, and Special Needs will be recognized.

Self Esteem Award - Elementary and Middle/High
The purpose of the Self Esteem Award is to allow students to express what makes them feel Special.

Kentucky PTA Scholarship and Rising Star and Self Esteem winners are recognized at the Student Recognition in Frankfort, KY in the spring.

Applications for all of these scholarships and awards are due into the Kentucky PTA Office, 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY by February 15th, 2018. See your leaders packet or kypta.org for the application. Participating PTA's must be a unit in good standing as of October 15, 2018.

Succeed
Kentucky PTA Units collect dues which are split between their local unit (local dues amount stated in your unit’s bylaws), Kentucky PTA ($1.25) and National PTA ($2.25). Those state and national dues add up to the $3.50 per member that you pay out to Kentucky PTA. Our office then forwards your National PTA dues on for you.

At convention in June 2018, National PTA's officers reported on the strong state of the association and announced the need to invest our resources for long-term success in forwarding our mission to better the education, health and safety of every child in America for generations to come.

While membership unfortunately continues to decline, National PTA’s robust and ongoing resource development efforts have shored up some of the financial gaps. However, these stopgaps are short term.

Here’s why...
- Today, $2.25 of each PTA member’s dues go to National PTA.
- Over 70% of that amount goes to programs and services.
- With inflation, the purchasing power of $2.25 is now only worth $2.

What a National PTA Dues Increase Can Do for PTA

Proposed National PTA Dues Amount: $3.75

The Board of Directors convened a dues increase working group, consisting of volunteers and staff, to assess current resources and future investment needs. The proposed $1.50 dues increase will cover:

- **Securing our Future:** Maintaining National PTA’s brand, influence and relevancy with policymakers and the next generation of parents
- **Strategic Business, Innovation and Technology:** Association rebranding, enhanced leadership training and strategic database and software technology investments
- **Inflation:** Revenue lost from inflation from years 2011 to 2018
- **Leadership Development:** Current investments in volunteer training and membership growth

How You Can Help

Our members are essential to this process and we value your feedback as we consider the best and most effective options.

PTA members at all levels across the country are encouraged to provide input and make recommendations for the association’s membership dues increase.

Early Identification Key for Children with Dyslexia

By some estimates, 1 in 5 students in this country have a language-based learning disability, the most common of which is dyslexia. In Kentucky, that amounts to up to 130,000 students sitting in classrooms who may be struggling to master learning how to read or comprehend what they have read.

Dyslexia occurs in individuals from all walks of life and is, in no way, connected to how intelligent a person is. The proportion of

Wayne Lewis
boys and girls who exhibit symptoms of dyslexia is about equal and so far, we are not really sure what the exact cause of dyslexia is. Read More

PTA Store
How do you let the world know you're part of the PTA? ShopPTA.com sells official PTA and PTSA logo merchandise, apparel, membership items, awards, gifts and more. All products are offered through each of the participating State PTA organizations. Check out ShopPTA.com today!

"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

Here's what you can do...

- Share your thoughts and recommendations for the proposed membership dues increase in the form below.
- Attend our Town Hall March 14 during the 2019 Legislative Conference.
- Participate in our webinars and other updates as we share more information with PTA members.
- Encourage other members to be involved - We want to ensure everyone's voice is heard!

Thank you for your commitment to our nation's children and families and to National PTA.

Calling All PTA Leaders: National Convention News!

#PTACon19 Registration

Early birds, take note! Registration for the 2019 National PTA Convention & Expo will open next week. You'll save $30 by registering early. Bookmark the page here.

For PTA Leaders

Halfway Point Checklist

- Evaluate your budget
- Is there another ways to increase your membership/volunteer base
- Evaluate your officer's duties
- Meet with your principal to look over the calendar for the remaining year
- Evaluate the programs that you have already done
- Is your leadership notebook up to date?
- Ask your teachers if there is something they need?
- Thank everyone who has helped you so far?
- Are you training your replacement?
- Look back over the state PTA's leadership notebook and your past PTA's notebook

KY PTA Board Application
Do you want to make a difference on a larger level? Are you interested on how PTA is just not part of your school but a part of the bigger picture in the state of Kentucky or Nationally? We invite you to join the KY State PTA board. We are now accepting applications for all positions. To apply - Please go https://goo.gl/forms/xM5KA1i9LWFGhL2n1