A Message from Kentucky PTA President

Dear Local PTA/PTSA Leaders,

How can we as parents be responsive to the changes in our fast-moving environment? How can we revitalize our association in preparation for today and future changes in how we as an association can remain relevant to our children’s needs, our families and our communities?

Since 1897, PTA has been the voice of this country. We have demanded, as one of our founders Alice McLellan Birney once said, “that the nation be made to recognize the supreme importance of the child.” We should be proud of our legacy and who we are—an association of members whose voice resonates at the local, district, state and national levels to effect change. But a legacy is not enough to sustain us because legacy can too easily become history.

We need to connect with our potential members by investing in our PTA brand, enhancing and expanding our leadership development and messaging more effectively our Mission. This will guarantee our place as a voice for all children for generations to come. We need to keep investing in initiatives that make our Association relevant for the future. Recently we just signed on with MemberHub which will help to streamline so many things for the local unit including the ability to send out a newsletter.

But I think we all know we face some challenges to re-engaging every new generation of families to join and participate. Family demographics have changed, and people’s approach to
Engage, Support, Improve, Increase, Celebrate

Throughout the year, National PTA offers awards or grants to honor or support PTAs as they: engage families, support student success, improve the health and safety of students and families, increase access to arts education or celebrate advocacy and diversity. National PTA is committed to promoting and encouraging many types of diversity and inclusion as part of our commitment to every child. In addition to evaluating the merits of each application, we may also consider geography, need, and other criteria to ensure a robust and diverse pool of grantees.

Active Grants & Awards

1. Be Internet Awesome Family Workshop Grant
2. SmartTalk Conversation Grant
3. Take Your Family to School Week Grant
4. Healthy Hydration Grant
5. STEM + Families Science Festival Grant
6. STEM + Families Math Night Grant
7. Phoebe Apperson Hearst Award
8. PTA Life Achievement Award

For More Information click here.

"Get Plugged In" to Membership Incentives

Get Ready, Set Go!

When it comes to Membership it is everyone business so make sure that all your board members have joined and encourage everyone on your board to speak to parents about joining.

"Back to School" drawing for PTAs/PTSAs sending payment for 100 or more members by August 15th.

Check out our Membership Incentives throughout the year.

Kentucky PTA 2019 Convention

We hope everyone enjoyed the convention! Please check out our convention picture gallery.

Legislative Update

KY PTA Executive Board

President
Heather Wampler
president@kypta.org

President Elect
Kathy Smiley
president-elect@kypta.org

VP Leadership & Outreach
Autumn Neagle

volunteering, membership and civic engagement are shifting. Family schedules are complex and busy, so families must strategically choose what's best. Our greatest challenge and opportunity may be the technology and generational divide. Today's families have plenty of options to choose from, so we need to make it easy for them to choose PTA. Today's families need to see how they fit in to an organization before they will participate. What worked 10 years ago will not work today. The world has changed, and while we will remain true to our mission, and proud of our legacy, we must change with it.

Today, we need to be flexible and make sure we have different levels of member engagement. Some parents can't make the regular PTA meetings but would be happy to volunteer at an event, research or complete an application for grant funding, advocate for improvements at a school board meeting, make calls or send emails when they have a few minutes from home. We thank you for all you do. Together, we will support the PTA Mission for our children and for every child-they are counting on us to guide them to a bright future. We are on this journey together. Let's make this association better than you or I could have ever dreamed, for our states families and communities.

Sincerely,

Heather Wampler

Sincerely,

Heather Wampler
As the Workplace Changes, So Must Education

One of the best parts of being commissioner is having the opportunity to travel across Kentucky, talking with and spending time with students, educators, parents and community stakeholders. There are many good things happening in schools and communities across the Commonwealth, and I am privileged to get to see and hear so much of it for myself.

One of my most recent trips was to Graves County, a real Western Kentucky gem. I met and talked with leaders, teachers and students, and got to help celebrate the retirement of the district’s outstanding outgoing superintendent, Kim Dublin. In my conversation with the whole group, we talked quite a bit about jobs. I asked the students how many of them had seen or heard of full-service gas station attendants. They looked at me like I had two heads, and rightly so.

At our annual convention, Judge Ray Corns and Jack Moreland shared thoughts about the 1989 Rose Decision. Judge Corns is the circuit judge that issued the decision declaring the state school system unconstitutional. Jack Moreland is the former Dayton Independent superintendent that was integral in this case. Thirty years have passed since the Rose v. Council for Better Education Supreme Court decision, which forever changed the landscape of education in Kentucky. The court’s focus on equity and increasing student capacities still resonates today.

Nawanna Privett was presented with the Kentucky PTA Paul Mason Legislative Advocate for Children Award, in honor of her years of service for the children of Kentucky.

Become a School of Excellence!

As part of their School of Excellence program, Barnard PTA in California chose to focus on improving education by growing family participation in advocacy - creating an environment in which parents felt welcome, engaged and involved with the school. What will your PTA do to improve your school next year? Learn more and start the journey to become a School of Excellence!

Kindness Vs. Cruelty: Helping Kids Hear the Better Angels of Their Nature

This story was adapted from an episode from a Life Kit podcast, Parenting: Raising Awesome Kids.

Are humans born kind?

We both assumed, as parents of young children, that kindness is just something our kids would pick up by osmosis, because we love them. It's a common assumption.

“We often just expect people to be kind without talking about it,” says Jennifer Kotler, vice president of research and evaluation at Sesame Workshop. “We think, ‘Oh, you’re a good kid. You’re gonna be kind.’ ”

Now, that’s not entirely wrong. Humans are certainly born with a capacity to be kind - even leaning toward kindness in many situations.

We have neurons in our brains, called mirror neurons, and they respond in the same way when we experience pain, say by being pricked with a needle, as they do when we see someone
so. Full-service gas station attendants don’t exist anymore in most places in the U.S. Read More

We also see signs of what is called empathic distress even in babies, says Thomas Lickona, a psychologist and author of How to Raise Kind Kids.

“Soon after birth, children will be more likely to cry as a result of hearing another child cry than in response to any other sort of noise,” says Lickona.

But kindness is about more than sensing someone else’s pain. It’s also about wanting to do something about it - and then actually being helpful. Lickona says kids show an early preference for helping, too.

In one study, when toddlers observed an adult appear to accidentally drop something, nearly every one of them responded by helping, usually within seconds, Lickona says. “And they did this without any request from the adult and without even being thanked by the adult. And it didn’t matter whether or not the parent was in the room.”

In fact, this preference for helping shows up even earlier. Kiley Hamlin is an associate professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia, and she has used puppets to test this preference in babies.

Hamlin had infants watch as a puppet looked longingly up a hill it wanted to climb. When the puppet tried, though, one of two things happened: Either a helper puppet gave the climber a boost up the hill or, once at the top, the climber puppet got bumped back down by a hinderer puppet. Hamlin then put the helper and hinderer in front of the babies and waited to see which one they preferred.

“The surprising thing was the sheer number of babies who were showing this preference for the helper,” says Hamlin. Read More
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

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