March 2020 Newsletter

Important Dates

Music in Our School Month
Gender Equality Month
Women's History Month
National Nutrition Month
Season 2 of Notes from the Backpack
– www.pta.org/center-family-engagement/notes-from-the-backpack

March 2 – School Social Worker Day
– Read Across America Day/Dr. Seuss Birthday
www.pta.org/Reading

March 2 – 6 - National School Breakfast Week

March 6 – School Employee Appreciation Day
(Maintenance Employees)

March 8 – International Women’s Day

March 15 – Please submit the following forms to Kentucky PTA:
Outstanding Membership Campaign, Classified Personnel, Educator, Local Unit Newsletter, Male Involvement/Participation, Programs/Projects, School Nurse, Volunteer, Local Unit Website and Volunteer Participation

PTA/PTSA Leaders Tip:

Communication Tips*

It is important to pick forms of communication that reach all of your members and community.
Important tips:
• Use many different forms of communication to reach the whole community.

A Message From Kentucky PTA President

This is an excellent time to conduct a mid-year review in order to begin planning for the 2020-2021 school year:

• Think about which programs have been successful and why?

• Is there anything you would do differently next year?

• Does your budget need to be amended?

• Check your bylaws and see when your nominating committee is to be elected. It is the responsibility of the nominating committee to find the best qualified candidate for each office.

• Brush up the job descriptions or create them if you don't have them. People want to know what they are committing to when they take on a position. How much time will it take? What skills will a person need to be successful in that role? Setting clear expectations will reduce unwanted turnover in the middle of the year.

• Think carefully about your nominating committee. These should be influencers in different communities within your school. PTA should represent the whole school community, so think broadly when asking people to serve. The nominating committee should have plenty of time to recruit.

This year's Kentucky PTA Student Recognition Award Ceremony will be on Saturday, May 9, 2020 from 1:00- 3:00 p.m. at Fayette County Central Office in Lexington. Please put this on your calendar.
• Take a survey of school families to find out how they would like to receive information; you may need to use several methods in order to reach everyone.
• Be sensitive to the fact that not everyone may have the latest technology available to them. A paper sent home may still have the most reach.
• Be aware of cultural and language differences. Have the ability to translate into another language.
• Be aware of privacy and other issues if the members decide they want a website or social media account. Check with your state PTA to see if they have any suggestions on best practices.
• Use good e-mail etiquette. Don't inundate your members with unnecessary e-mails; one or two a week is usually enough.
• Make sure spelling is correct and that the message is appropriate and clear. Additional tips:
  • Show respect
  • Be positive
  • Collaborate and problem solve
  • Take a deep breath before responding to a difficult question or person
  • You can always postpone a discussion if it becomes too difficult
  • Be all-inclusive
  • Model sensitivity to all
  • Think twice before hitting *Reply All
*Source: www.pta.org

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Grants & Awards

Recognizing Outstanding Achievement

National PTA is now accepting applications for the 2020 Jan Harp Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award. The submission period concludes March 15, 2020.

The Jan Harpe Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award recognize PTAs that best demonstrate outstanding achievement in the areas of diversity and inclusion, as well as efforts to end discriminatory practices.

This award will be presented to one state PTA, one district/council/region PTA and one local PTA at the 2020 National PTA Convention & Expo on June 18-21 in Louisville, Kentucky.

Awards

• $1,000 cash award
• One Plaque/Trophy
• Honored at the Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast at the 2020 National PTA Convention & Expo
• Honored at the Awards Program at the 2020 National PTA Convention & Expo
• 2 tickets to the Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast at 2020 National PTA Convention & Expo
• Potential opportunity to be a speaker at the Diversity & Inclusion Breakfast at the 2020 National PTA Convention & Expo

Children's Advocacy Day

The Kentucky PTA Legislative Team has been monitoring bills of interest this legislative session. Some particular bills include: Senate Bill 7 (SBDM bill), Senate Bill 110 & House bill 350 (Scholarship Tax Credits bills), and House Bill 22 (Corporal Punishment).

Now is the time to call your legislator and tell them that funding public education is crucial for our students and protecting the parent voice on SBDMs is necessary.


Active SBDM Bill

Senate Bill 7 - reduces the councils’ authority by removing some of the decision-making responsibility from those closest to the students and giving it to the superintendent and school board. The Senate approved a committee substitute to SB 7 that amends the bill to include: 3 parent members (adds a parent), 3 teacher members, and 1 principal; has the superintendent select the principal after consultation with the school council; and requires council policy to be consistent with local board policy and district goals. We support adding a parent member, but not if council authority is reduced. We oppose this bill.

This bill passed from the Senate to the House Education Committee.

https://legislature.ky.gov/Committees/Pages/CommitteeDetails.aspx?CommitteeRSN=89&CommitteeType=House Standing Committee
For 25 Years, Kentucky Has Lead the Way in Education Technology

By David Couch
Chief Information Officer, Kentucky Department of Education

When I was asked to write a column for the Kentucky PTA about the state of technology in the Commonwealth's public schools, I had just one question. How much space do I have?

As anyone who knows me knows all too well, I am justifiably proud of how far Kentucky has come with education technology. We are a pioneer and national leader in both digital access and cloud computing. All of our K-12 district offices and schools have access to high-quality fibered internet services. In fact, Kentucky originally connected all of our K-12 public school districts to the Internet in 1995 (not by dial-up) and became the very first state in America to establish this opportunity. It only took us 11 months to do that for all 176 K-12 school districts and no state has ever come close to doing that statewide faster or better. Today, Kentucky remains a national leader in being recognized for providing the most reliable and highest quality high-speed access for all of our public-school teachers and students.

Twenty-five years ago the internet and technology were still in their infancy. It was a nice addition to be able to offer your students, but it wasn't a crucial element of any child's education. That cannot be said today. We believe that anywhere, anytime, we can access the most recent information on any subject.

Scholarship Tax Credits

**Senate Bill 110 & House Bill 350** - both bills establish tax credits for individuals and businesses donating funds to qualified scholarship granting organizations that would provide financial support to families to send students to private or religious schools. Both bills have been assigned to the respective Appropriations & Revenue Committees.

We oppose both bills because tax credits would divert scarce funds away from the public education system that serves 90% of American children. Now is not the time to consider more tax breaks when Kentucky's investment in education is not adequate to achieve statewide goals.

**Corporal Punishment**

**House Bill 22** - deals with removing corporal punishment as a form of discipline in the schools.

We support eliminating corporal punishment in schools and finding alternative discipline measures in order to create a more safe and nurturing environment for students. Bill passed in the House and received in the Senate.

Call the LRC Message Line about any of these bills.

You can leave a message for ALL legislators or just yours.

Be prepared to share your name and address. The Legislative Message Line is 1-800-372-7181.

Find your legislator here:


You can also email or visit your legislator.
always on digital access to learning is not only today's expectation, but it also is a great equalizer for all students to achieve at high levels. We now have more than 700,000 computing devices in the Kentucky K-12 public schools and are rapidly approaching a 1-to-1 ratio of students to computers. These digital devices aren't just window dressing; they are a vital part of each child's learning experiences.

**Job Descriptions/Process**

Every Month we will focus on a job description for each position or process that each PTA should have in their standing rules. Please feel free to use these to create, update, or consider making part of your standing rules.

**Vice President of Membership**

- Coordinates all membership activities that the PTA does for the year.
- Responsible for creating and organizing a membership campaign for the school year with the membership committee.
- Responsible for creating and implementing a membership plan, promoting membership throughout the year, providing membership reports at PTA board and association meeting
- Work with the treasurer in making sure membership dues are paid to KY PTA and district PTA quarterly.
- Apply for awards for Membership Campaign from District and KY PTA.
- Educate families and school staff on the benefits of joining PTA

There is still time to be an active voice in your government. Reach out to your representatives on education legislature that supports our students and our schools.

**Challenge**

This month we challenge you to do the e-learning class of Transformative Family Engagement. How can your PTA become the go-to resource for engaging families in your school community? Take this e-learning course to identify practical ways your PTA and school can make your family engagement practices more transformative.

**Congratulations to the following individuals who did e-learning classes in January**

Angela Lawton
Kati Sanders
Jennifer Bauer
Amy Carder
Kathy Smiley

**Congratulations to all those who attended District Trainings in January:**

14th District Roundtable and Bylaws
16th District Round Table
The 2020 KY PTA Convention will be held in downtown Lexington at Lexington Traditional Middle School July 17-18, 2020. Hotel Lodging is located at the Holiday Inn on Justice Drive in Hamburg.

Registration is open! Tickets are $55 per ticket if submitted before June 15, and it includes admittance to all Workshops, the Exhibit Hall, PTA Store, Friday luncheon, Friday Life Recognition and Awards dinner and Saturday luncheon.

If your PTA would like to apply for a Grant, that form is also available below. Fill out the form in its entirety to be included for consideration. Deadline is May 15.

2020 Registration Form

2020 Convention Grant Application

2020 National PTA Convention & Expo

Exciting times for Kentucky PTA! I’m sure you have heard that the National PTA Convention will be in Louisville KY from June 18-21, 2020. Mark sure to mark your calendar and plan to attend!

The discounted registration rate for the National PTA Convention in Louisville is only $190. You have to register by the Early Bird deadline of March 19 or the normal registration fee is $250.

As a Kentucky PTA member there will be opportunities to volunteer to reimburse your registration fee. There will be requirements that will have to be met to obtain that reimbursement, including a minimum to work at least 8 hours in order to qualify. Information specific to those opportunities should be available by the end of March. However, we didn't want anyone to miss the Early Bird Registration timeline, therefore you must still pay this $190 registration rate by March 19. Then once the final information for volunteers is received and if you are selected to volunteer then you will be reimbursed this amount.

If you have any questions, please call the Kentucky PTA office at 502-226-6607.

PTA Store

Do you need materials to help run your PTA? We have what you need in custom Awards, Banners & Tablecloths, Bags & Aprons, Name Badges, Polo & Denim Shirts, and Outerwear at the Custom PTA Shop Visit Kentucky PTA Online Store for all of your general PTA merchandise today!

What’s new: Anti-bullying Signs & Products Drug Abuse Prevention & Awareness 2019-2020 Reflections
Kentucky PTA | 148 Consumer Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

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