National PTA's mission: to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

September 2020 Newsletter

A Message From Our Kentucky PTA President
Kathy Smiley

Important Dates

September

13-19 National Arts Education Week
14-18 National PTA Back to School Week
15 Early Bird Membership Payment Due
22 National Voter Registration Day

Whether your school community is returning to classrooms in person, virtually or a hybrid of both, we want to make sure you get a great start. Here is a little checklist to make sure your PTA/PTSA is getting off to the right start:

FINANCIAL REVIEW- due by July 15 please makes sure you sent in your copy to Kentucky PTA https://drive.google.com/file/d/1AAOp98g6HEc2jiRIWl71TkJkuPGBlah6/view?usp=sharing.

OFFICERS LIST- due ASAP, you can go to Kentucky PTA website http://kypta.org/posts/leader/officerlist.php or update on Member hub to enter your NEW PTA/PTSA officers.

MEMBERSHIP DUES- “Early Bird” drawing for PTAs/PTSAs sending payment for members equal to or greater than the total membership from last year by September 15th.

Sign up for National PTA 2020 PTA Boot Camp - this year’s PTA boot camp will strengthen your connection to PTA’s mission, while unlocking tools and resources that are exclusively available to PTA/PTSA leaders. www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/local-leader-kit

Sept. 14-18 is National PTA Back-to-School Week, sponsored by Office Depot OfficeMax, and National PTA is here to support students, families, teachers and PTA leaders as schools reopen across the country. NPTA compiled resources to help you navigate the new school year and address the
Local Unit Virtual General Membership Meeting Policy

The Kentucky PTA Board of Directors understands that with COVID-19 and the changes that have been made to ensure everyone’s safety; it may not be feasible for PTAs/PTSAs to have in person meetings. We understand that the access to some school buildings has been limited as well as the ability to have enough people present to have quorum. With that in mind, the Kentucky PTA has voted to allow all local unit PTAs/PTSAs to hold their general membership meetings virtually.

Each PTA must follow the same guidelines as if the meeting were in person.

Those are as followed:
• Notice must be given to your general membership as per your bylaws.
• An agenda must be created and shared with those present. This can be done via screen share if needed.
• Minutes must be taken and retained for the PTA/PTSA records.
• Treasurer Report must be given as per PTA Policy.
• You must have quorum per your bylaws.

The Kentucky PTA has imposed the following stipulations in order for any local unit to host a Virtual General Meeting:
• This is only for the 2020-2021 school year.
• All General Virtual Meetings should be held on Google Meets, Zoom or a like platform that allows everyone to hear and ask questions.
• A dial in option should be available for anyone with out internet connection (both Zoom and Google Meets allows for this). If you have people who have dialed in, please go over in detail the agenda if it were screen shared.

If COVID-19 subsides and PTA/PTSA are allowed by the school and school districts to resume in person meetings in their buildings; the Kentucky PTA is allowing for this school year only, for each local unit Executive Board to decide if A) If it will continue having only Virtual Meetings, or B) to have Virtual Meeting concurrent with in person general meetings, to allow those who are immune compromised to still be a part of the meeting if they wish to join.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Kentucky PTA at 502-226-6607 or via email at kentuckypta@bellsouth.net

Elections Reminder

Some of the boards voted last spring to wait to hold their elections until September 30th! It is now time to prepare for those elections. Also, don’t forget to update your officers list. Important information goes out VIA MemberHub emails, and if we don’t have the contact information for the board you miss out information that might help! You can fill out the officers list here: http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/officerlist.php
If you have questions or concerns, please email Jenna at the Kentucky PTA office. kyptajenna@gmail.com

2020 Reflections

Don’t forget!! Registration is now open for the National PTA Reflection Program. If you have not yet registered your local or district unit you still have time. Please go to www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections.
Be sure to have your local or district’s 8 digit ID# (if you don’t know it, it’s ok use the local unit lookup). Once you have completed your signup, you will then go to www.kypta.org and click on PTA leaders at the right top of the page. Here you will see programs. The Programs button is were you will...
KDE Stands Ready to Work with Districts and Schools as Classes Resume

By Jason Glass
Commissioner of Education

I wanted to start my first column as Kentucky’s new commissioner of education to let you know how happy I am to be back home and how honored I am to have been selected to help move the Commonwealth’s schools forward during these unprecedented times.

I know this is the most unusual opening Kentucky - and the rest of the country - probably has ever had. The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) and I stand ready to help all our districts as the school year begins. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, apply for any waivers offered by the federal government that can assist our teachers and students, provide more guidance as needed and continue to be a resource for our schools and districts as they help their students learn and grow, regardless of where that education is taking place.

I know this has been a tough time for us all, and tempers can flare as we all work to do what we think is in the best interests of our students and communities. We have a lot of questions that are difficult to answer and have no clear-cut solutions. We all want what’s best for Kentucky’s public school students, but figuring out what’s best is something we all struggle with daily.

I wish that I could predict or direct what will happen and over the next several months - but no one can. We will need to remain flexible and adaptable as conditions change in order to keep learning going while also keeping everyone safe. This seems hard because it is. I want you to know that these feelings are normal and I am experiencing them too. Our family has relocated to Kentucky during this pandemic and my own children are starting school remotely, missing their friends and unable to make new ones, and living in a hotel in temporary conditions - so I definitely understand how difficult this is. I firmly believe that we have to find ways to keep learning going,
while also taking every step we can to keep our kids, staff, and communities safe. We need to be patient and be kind with each other as we forge a path forward. There will come a time when this virus does not rule our lives and we should all look forward to that day with joy and great anticipation.

I also want you to know that I wholeheartedly support the Kentucky Board of Education’s pledge of commitment to racial equity. I share their beliefs that we must provide a high-quality education for all the state’s children regardless of their color, especially our Black and brown students who have been underserved for far too long. We must have deeper conversations about bias and how it can be hurting our co-workers, students and their families. We must change the lens we use to look at the world before we can make meaningful changes that are just and will help all of Kentucky.

I am not looking for a quick fix. This change, like all changes, will take time and I hope all of you will join us in the difficult, but necessary, work that lies ahead.

As if the challenges of COVID-19 and taking on the issues of anti-racism and equity were not enough, budget cuts are likely headed our way when the legislature reconvenes in January. The nationwide shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has hurt businesses and families, so a budget that was looking hopeful just nine months ago is decidedly more pessimistic. Tough economic times are ahead, but know that I will always be an advocate for Kentucky’s public education system. I will focus on the good things our schools and students have done and I will fight for the funding we need to continue moving forward.

I believe public education is one of the greatest success stories in our nation’s history. Education runs deep in my family, as my grandmother, both of my parents, my sister and I were all public school teachers in the state.

I know how schools often are at the heart of a community. They are where we see our children perform or play sports. They are where we catch up with old friends and family. They are often one of a community’s largest and best employers. I believe that public schools are the launching pad for our state’s next generation of teachers, entrepreneurs, business leaders and community leaders.

While some may think it trite or cliche, I think we all need listen to Kentucky’s motto, now more than ever: United We Stand, Divided We Fall. I am glad to be back home and I look forward to working together to help all of our state’s children get the education they need to fulfill their dreams.

### Standing Rules

We want to help you with your standing rules. Each month we will give you a standing rule that might help you with your PTA.

Any check returned to the PTA will be charged a few of $20.00.

This standing rule amount will vary depending on what your bank charges you. It is important that is it is in your standing rules so that the board as all agreed with the fee. This also makes sure that all members are paying the same price and it is not made up on the spot. Every board member can check the standing rules to see what the agreed amount is at any time. It is also good to post this somewhere if you have a PTA room or when you are taking checks.

### A Note From Our Kentucky State PTA NTI Parent Ambassador

We have now gone a few weeks into our new way of educating our kids. As NTI begins to turn into a new normal there are some things that parents and community should look at. Being in these many self and family contained silos it is sometimes hard see where we can make this moment amazing for our kids and ourselves. As an Education Trust Family Fellow, I took some time to do some research on their website about NTI and found this gem for ECE parents. Here are four things that you should know, and actions you can take, to guide your child’s journey through these unusual and unprecedented times.

1. There are best practices for children with disabilities who are engaged in online learning. Encourage your child’s teacher to use them! We can make online learning beneficial for every child and household. But we have to do our research sometimes as parents and teachers and then when we find something USE IT! If you feel like there is something to assist your ECE baby, this is a perfect time to ask for it.

2. Your child may need help organizing time. And we do too. Making sure you are creating those posters and flyers with your kids schedule it will help them to become even more independent than before. This is also important for you as a mom, teacher, wife, and zoo wrangler you need the schedule to keep you organize and make sure you add alone time each day to mediate.

3. Your child will need new ways to access needed
MemberHub

Reminder State and National Dues must be paid thru MemberHub this year. If you do not have access to MemberHub please be sure that you have submitted your new officers list. You can find that on the Kentucky PTA website - www.kypta.org. I would strongly encourage everyone to check out the new Store options, as that will be the easiest way to do not only membership but social distancing fundraisers. As always if you have any questions, issues or concerns regarding MemberHub, please email us at MemberHub@kypta.org.

Bylaws Update

We would like all of our Kentucky PTA/PTSAs to take a look at their bylaws renewal date. If they are expired, we have some good news for you. Due to the State of Emergency because of COVID-19, the Kentucky PTA board extended all expired Bylaws until 12/31/2020. That gives everyone some time to get their renewals in for approval. Currently PTA/PTSAs are unable to hold virtual general membership meetings which are required for Bylaws renewal. This month the Kentucky PTA board of directors will be working on a solution. Look for directions to come out later this month or early next month.

For information on our current process go to: http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/bylaws.php

4. You and your child still have rights! Don’t forget that what is on your IEP is a legal binding agreement between you and the school district. If you approved 30 minutes every single day then they must comply. Don’t be afraid to request another ARC meeting if you feel like your student is not receiving the best care during this time.


Carla Robinson
15th District VP
KY State PTA NTI Advocate

PTA Store

ShopPTA.com just added to your web store new Community Support Banners. See Here: https://bit.ly/2XuzLab

Kentucky PTA

We are enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Every time you shop and use your card or your linked phone number, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Kentucky PTA. See below for instructions on how to enroll and link your card.

To enroll, go to www.kroger.com. Log in with your existing Kroger account or sign up for a new one. Under your name, click on My Account. Under My Account, click on Community Rewards on the left side of the screen. Under Find an Organization, enter either our Non-Profit Organization number BS198 or Kentucky Congress of Parents & Teachers, Inc. (1) Click Enroll. (2) You will now receive an automatic confirmation stating that you are now enrolled. (3). Thank you for supporting the Kentucky PTA.
Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (Audience) Why should they care? (Benefit) What do I want them to do here? (Call-to-Action)

Create a great offer by adding words like "free" "personalized" "complimentary" or "customized." A sense of urgency often helps readers take an action, so think about inserting phrases like "for a limited time only" or "only 7 remaining!"