December 2020 Newsletter

Important Dates

December
- 4 Advocacy Training
- 15 Reflections Submissions Due
- 31 Nominations Due

I’ve always been a fan of the holiday season, much like all of you I’m sure. As I’ve gotten older, I’ve realized that the things I like the most about the holidays are the traditions - decorating, spending time with neighbors and special dinners with friends and family.

Wishing You a Merry Little Christmas

By Jason Glass
Commissioner of Education

I look forward to those holiday events all year long, especially now that I have two young children of my own. But I must admit that I’m still coming to terms with the fact that all those traditions that I value - that all of us value - are going to look a little different this year due to COVID-19.

This year has been a year unlike any other. Every aspect of our lives has been disrupted, from how we work and go to school to how we shop and see our friends. To say 2020 has been a strain is a tremendous understatement.

Because of that strain, celebrating the holidays this way may seem like a lot to ask, but I think it’s worth it. After all, we are the ones who will be the first to see the coming year and the first to taste the sweet fruits of our labors.

December is an important month in the year because it is the month of ceremonies. It’s understandable: cold, very little daylight, short days and even longer nights. It’s also time to work on the January membership drive as it is a great time to recruit new members, families are resolved to be more involved in their student’s education by joining a PTA or PTSA. The strength of your PTA/PTSA lies in your membership—the families, parents, teachers, school administrators, business leaders, and community members who devote themselves to making a positive difference in the lives of children. Members are the lifeblood of PTA and provide the passion, leadership, and hard work needed to fulfill PTA’s Mission. Every individual who joins PTA/PTSA is giving something not only to his or her child but to every child. Imagine how much stronger your community could be if every family, every parent, every community member, and every business leader who could be involved in PTA/PTSA did get involved.

The 2021 Regular Legislative Session begins on January 5. The Kentucky PTA Legislative Team will virtually speak with the legislators during the session, representing your view on those issues important to the education, health and safety of all children in the state of Kentucky. We will keep you informed as the session progresses.

For 16 years advocates for children have gathered in Frankfort for Children’s Advocacy Day at the Capitol. On Children’s Advocacy Day, advocates fill the halls of the Capitol and ask their elected officials to step up for Kentucky kids—leading to many policy wins and building awareness of issues facing kids and their families. Children’s Advocacy...
year will be more important than ever. It’s those traditions and celebrations that remind us of our ties to communities and our family. They moor us to the past while giving us hope for the future. All of those things are so important in these uncertain times.

While you are celebrating this month, I ask you to do it carefully so our public school students have a chance of returning to in-person classes in January. Remember your masks and keep practicing social distancing. I know it’s not the holidays we dreamt of, but it’s the holidays we must have for the time being to keep ourselves, our children and our families safe.

The holidays also are a time for being grateful, so I wanted to share a few of the things I’m grateful for this year.

Teachers, I want to thank you for your steadfast efforts to keep your students moving forward. Never before have we asked you to be prepared to change the way you deliver instruction so quickly and so often. Many of our districts have been able to return to in-person instruction only a few days at a time before an increase in local infection rates causes them to return to virtual instruction.

Having been a classroom teacher, I know how hard it is to keep changing your lessons and keep track of your students in such a tumultuous time. You have done both and I couldn’t be prouder to work alongside you.

And parents, thank you so much for the huge burden you’ve been asked to handle. You have helped instruct your students while many of you also have been working from home. You’ve also had to deal with the huge social-emotional burden that has been place both on you and your children. You and your students are all missing friends, family, stable schedules and certainty.

The things you’ve had to face are unfair and it’s hard and it’s OK for you to not feel OK about it all. I and my family are feeling many of the same emotions. Please remember to reach out for help when you need it, whether it’s from your child’s school counselor, from your local religious family or from a mental health provider. There is no shame for asking for help when you need it and there is great joy in helping others when you are able.

As we close out 2020, none of us know what the future holds in store for us in the next year. I hope it includes a return to a more normal life, but we don’t know when that will happen. Until then, keep your loved ones close - emotionally and in spirit, if nothing else - and I wish you and yours a happy new year.

Amidst COVID-19, the strains on families, communities, and the state budget make advocacy—especially advocacy for kids—more important than ever. Because of that, we’re cancelling Children’s Advocacy Day and announcing... 

Children’s Advocacy WEEK at the Capitol February 1-5, 2021.

In anticipation of the need to reduce crowd sizes, and because one day is not enough for this important advocacy, we are shifting to Children’s Advocacy Week to space out advocacy events. Children’s Advocacy Week will feature virtual events and additional opportunities to connect with legislators and other advocates. While it is still unclear whether or not visitors will be allowed into the Capitol, we hope to have a rally and other in-person events. For more information or to register for Children’s Advocacy Week - www.kyyouth.org.

Please remember our Kentucky PTA offices will be closed for winter break from December 24 to January 3; opening back up on Monday, January 4.

On behalf of the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors; I want to THANK YOU for all you do and wish you and your family a wonderful and safe winter season.

2020 Reflections

All entries can be email to reflections@kypta.org or mail to: P.O.Box 654 Frankfort, KY 40602 (postmarked no later than December 15th)

Bylaws News

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, the Kentucky PTA Board of Directors has voted to extend any Bylaws that were expiring on or before 2/28/2020 to 3/31/2020. This will allow all local units to stay in good standing at this time. If your unit falls into the group that is expiring, please make plans to have your bylaws renewal approved by your general membership and sent to Kentucky PTA for final approval.

If you need any guidance, please reach out to us. We will be happy to help with anything!

Sarah Barrett vpos@kypta.org
Jenna Jennings kyptajenna@gmail.com
We Need Your Help!

We are trying to work on the KY PTA convention and wanted your input on classes. Please fill out this very short survey and give us your opinion. If you have questions you can reach out to Penny Christian at president@16thdistrictpta.org

https://forms.gle/TrXNMqCLZjEi7ZdA

Advocacy During NTI

By Carla Robinson
KY State PTA NTI Parent Advocate
15th District PTA

During this Covid season a lot has happened. Many have Marched for Breonna Taylor and George Floyd. The United States has elected a new President Biden and Vice President Harris. We have had some version of NTI for 7 months, and if your kids are like mine you have discovered Tik Toks. During all of this we have learned so much about ourselves and we have also learned so much about each other. I have also learned so much about the needs for our Public schools and the needs of the students.

The National PTA put out a statement July 2020 about the urgent needs for the schools, you can find the full statement here: https://www.pta.org/home/About-National-Parent-Teacher-Association/PTA-Newsroom/news-list/news-detail-page/2020/07/16/national-pta-calls-on-congress-to-provide-more-resources.
immediately-to-schools. Here is a snippet from that announcement. “National PTA is calling on Congress to immediately provide more resources for public schools to mitigate the risks associated with COVID-19 and to address the health, safety, infrastructure and physical, psychological, social and emotional needs of students, educators and staff. Our association is also urging Congress to provide dedicated resources to connect students to the internet; emergency funding for family engagement; funding for students with disabilities through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and to increase funding for child nutrition programs to prevent, prepare for and respond to food insecurities related to the pandemic and help schools adapt to new food service and meal protocols as students go back to school.”

Everyone who is advocating for our kids always ask well what can we do? Well here you go, copy and paste this request to your state, local and federal legislatures to ensure these funds are allocated to our schools. When I read this statement what stood out to me was the address for more health and mental needs for the students. We have asked before and we must ask again for Mental health counselors for every school even more now. Our kids may need this resource more than ever and it must be made available to every child without haste. Help me and all our students get the word out to our leaders.

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.

For detailed information, please click here.

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

Update Your Officers List

Don’t forget to update your officers list for 2020-2021. Important information goes out VIA and all counters shall sign a completed Deposit Form. If a person who is counting it is an employee of a school system - they cannot touch the money - however can watch as it is counted and sign the form with the following statement “Visually watched money counted - did not touch money. The money shall then be given to the treasurer, or deposed into the lock box. A copy of this form shall be retained by all signers of the form and be placed with the money.

Reminder:
You do not need to have a photo copier anymore. Just take a picture of the form - so that all who signed have a copy.

ATTENTION ALL FUTURE LEADERS!!

It is time for our call for nominations for KY PTA
Awards and Scholarship

Get news! Now is the time for you to apply for Kentucky State PTA awards. All the award can be found here in the leaders notebook http://kypta.org/posts/leaders/leadersnotebook.php Just click on the link and it will take you to all the awards that are offered at the state level. Deadline for all awards to be mailed in should be posted marked by March 15, 2020.

Leg Con 2021

The NPTA Legislative Committee is looking forward to the 2021 Legislative Conference. As I am sure you have heard, this year’s Legislative Conference will be held virtually on March 9-11, 2021. This virtual option will allow so many of our members to participate in Leg Con! More details will be distributed soon. In the meantime, The Leg Con page is now live, you can visit it here: https://www.pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Legislative-Conference.

Please consider sharing your expertise with other advocates by submitting a Spotlight Presentation. Every day, PTAs across the country go above and beyond to advocate for children. Their efforts have made real, tangible improvements in their school communities. We will showcase these amazing efforts at the 2021 Virtual Legislative Conference and use their work to inspire change across the nation. Submit your state, regional and/or local PTA to conduct a Spotlight presentation, no later than Dec 8, 2020 at 11:59 pm EST. Presentations should focus on issues included in National PTA’s Public Policy Agenda and include strategies and tactics that other PTAs can emulate. All Spotlights will be pre-recorded and shown at The Virtual Legislative Conference. The application can be found here: https://www.pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Legislative-Conference/advocacy-spotlight.

We are also seeking nominations for this year’s advocacy awards. If you know of an outstanding youth or individual PTA advocate, or a local unit or state PTA that has done great advocacy work, nominate them to receive an award for their efforts from National PTA at the 2021 Virtual Legislative Conference. You can also nominate yourself! The deadline is Jan 4, 2021 at 11:59 pm EST. Here is the link to the application: https://www.pta.org/home/events/National-PTA-Legislative-Conference/advocacy-awards.

If you have any questions please contact Yvonne Johnson, National PTA, Vice President of Advocacy Chair of the NPTA Legislative Committee
yjohnson@pta.org
(302) 753-7107
directly from local PTAs. Campañas Virtuales de Membresía is the Spanish version of the Virtual Membership Campaigns mini membership training. Access all the mini membership training via the PTA Local Leader Kit or via the link on the Lead a PTA Virtually webpage.

Have you been reading any of the recent blogs? Many are highlighted on the Lead a PTA Virtually page. This is a really easy and quick way to provide information to your local PTAs/PTSAs. Here are the titles of some of the blogs you can share with your PTAs/PTSAs board members.

1. Ways to Make Your PTA Virtual
2. Show Your PTA Value to Sustain and Grow Your Membership
3. How to Get the Technology Your Local PTA Needs
4. How to Make Joining PTA Easy

For more information on ways to lead your PTA/PTSA Virtually go to **www.pta.org**

**Membership**

Reminder to all local units, State and National dues need to be paid via MemberHub. These articles will walk you thru the process if you need help.


MemberHub Questions/Concerns: [https://calendly.com/kyptajenna/memberhub-questions-and-training](https://calendly.com/kyptajenna/memberhub-questions-and-training)

*If you are still having concerns or questions, you can email memberhub@kypta.org or you can book an one on one with Jenna by using the link above.*

**PTA Store**

AmazonSmile has donated over $200 million to charities worldwide! You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to PTA Kentucky Congress by shopping at smile.amazon.com/ch/61-0461750 or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app.

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.