



News to Use

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FEBRUARY 2012

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **Kindergarten Readiness, February 13, 5:30pm-7:00pm, Arlington Elementary**
- **Green Team - February 14, 11:30 a.m. at Bluegrass PRIDE, 3120 Pimlico Pkwy Suite 126**
- **Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol on February 16th.**
- **Advocacy, February 16, 11:30am- 1:00pm (during Roundtable) IAKSS, Conference Room C Lunch provided.**
- **Homework Help, February 23, 6:00pm-7:00pm, Northside Library (Russell Cave Rd)**

Online Resources

- www.pta.org
- www.kypta.org
- www.ptareflections.org
- www.ptagreatideabank.com
- www.letsmove.org
- www.healthiergeneration.org
- www.pta.org/healthylifestyles
- www.volunteerspot.org

Contact us:

16th District PTA
Liza Holland
President
533-3038
Liza@LizaHolland.com

PTA Founders Day

Founders Day on February 17 is a reminder of the substantial role that PTA has played locally, regionally, and nationally in supporting parent involvement and working on behalf of all children and families. It's a time to reflect and take pride in our many accomplishments, and to renew our commitment to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for parents, and a strong advocate for public education.

PTA's founders Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Alice McLellan Birney, and the founder of Georgia's Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Selena Sloan Butler, were women of imagination and courage. They understood the power of individual action, worked beyond the accepted

barriers of their day, and took action to literally change the world.

They had a simple idea—to improve the lives and futures of all of our children. As much as other conditions in America may have changed, that idea has not. PTAs keep it alive.

Today, PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the nation. Our members represent the ethnic diversity of our nation, and they come from the ranks of traditional families, single-parent households, blended families, grandparents, and other caring adults. Together, we continue to serve as the conscience of the country for children and youth.

Children's

Advocacy Day

Come be a part of the largest rally for kids in Kentucky! Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol is your chance to show legislators that Kentucky cares about its children, and talk with them about the most pressing issues Kentucky's kids are facing today.

The rally kicks off at 10:00 am Eastern. After the rally, attendees are free to stay or go. Activities for the remainder of the day include: eating lunch in the cafeteria, learning more about the Blueprint for Kentucky's Children agenda items, meeting with legislators, sitting in on committee meetings, and sitting in on a House or Senate meeting.

With your help, the 8th Annual Children's Advocacy Day can be the largest gathering of kids' advocates in Kentucky. REGISTER to attend today!

More information and registration is available at <http://kyyouth.org/Advocacy/cad.htm>.

Upcoming Award Deadlines

Each year the Kentucky PTA offers several awards. The details of each award can be found in the *2011-2012 Kentucky PTA Leaders' Notebook for PTAs and PTSAs* or on the Kentucky PTA website at kypta.org. There are two awards with deadlines of February 15, 2012.

Self Esteem Award: Students have the opportunity to write an essay, story or poem. The theme is "What Makes Me Feel Special".

"Christa McAuliffe" Rising Star Award: This award recognizes a student who has overcome problems and successfully worked to improve his/her grades, attendance, attitude, character and/or self-esteem.

President's Post

Thoughts on PTA

Your PTA can do great things. Find out what the needs of the parents and students are at your school and fill those needs. Just because it has been done for years does not mean it has to be done.

Put your time and talents to work where it will make a real difference for kids and families.

February puts me in the mind of our role in advocating for children. We will be heading to the Capitol on February 16th to participate in Children's Advocacy Day. Everyone is welcome to join us – the rally is in the rotunda at 10:00 am, then you are encouraged to meet with your legislators. If you have any questions, please call or email me. It is a great event. On the same day, if you are not able to come to Frankfort, PTA members Jessica Berry and Sabrina Rumford will be holding advocacy training at IAKSS during the same time as we normally have Roundtable. Please mark your calendars to be one place or the other. It is fitting that we are advocating now, as February 17th is PTA Founders Day. In 1897, parents came to-

gether to right wrongs being done to children, and we have not stopped since. Visit www.pta.org to learn more about our rich history.

Another important way we make sure parents' voices are heard on behalf of children is through the SBDM Councils at each school. I had no idea what these were until I became a PTA President, so don't feel bad if you don't know either. SBDM stands for school based decision making council and each school has one. It is made up of administrators, teachers and parents and this group makes lots of decisions about how your school will be run. They look at budgets, allocation of funds, curriculum school policies like homework and more. I was really surprised at

how much power these councils really have over what happens in school for our kids. PTA runs the elections for the parent representatives each year according to KY Law. We can all thank Marlene Helfritsch of the KY PTA, who was in the room when the law was being written and said – hey folks, you are forgetting the parents! They had her craft the language about parents and it was included in the law! Make sure to vote in the election and even consider running yourself. I sat on two councils last year and I learned a ton.

Hope to see you in Frankfort!

Liza



Kentucky Arts Council presents Arts Day in Kentucky Feb. 2

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Arts leaders, artists and supporters of the arts from across the Commonwealth will come to Frankfort for a full day of activities to celebrate the arts and thank legislators for their support.

The day will begin with leaders from Kentucky Arts Partnership organizations having their photos taken with their legislators to acknowledge the value of public support for the arts. Other activities include recognition of the 2011 recipients of the Governor's Awards in the Arts, a tour of the "Kentucky Visions at the Capitol" exhibit, and special sessions for artists, arts leaders and arts education directors. The Governor's Mansion will also be open to the public from 9 - 11 a.m., where visitors can view the exhibit "Commissioned to Create: Works by Artists who Created the Governor's Awards (1993-2011)."

The Arts Day in Kentucky celebration will culminate with a reception from 5 - 7 p.m. at Berry Hill Mansion, 700 Louisville Road, Frankfort, Ky., which is free and open to the public. Special guests include Kentucky Poet Laureate Maureen Morehead, Governor's Awards in the Arts recipients and Al Smith Fellowship Award recipients.

For a detailed schedule of events, go to <http://1.usa.gov/KyArtsDay2012>.

The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, creates opportunities for Kentuckians to value, participate in and benefit from the arts. Kentucky Arts Council funding is provided by the Kentucky General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Organizations involved with the Kentucky Arts Partnership in Fayette County include the Explorium of Lexington, Lexington Children's Theater, Actors Guild of Lexington, and Lexington Ballet Company.

Leadership Tips

The National PTA website at www.pta.org has valuable resources for local PTA leaders. Included on this website is "Running a PTA" section.

This page includes links to resources to assist local PTA leaders in running effective units. Resources include membership-building tools such as a Recruitment and Retention Handbook (found in the Member Tools section), fundraising ideas, Bylaws, Parliamentary Procedures and Amendments, and federal requirements for PTAs.

Please take time to visit http://www.pta.org/local_leadership_resources.asp on National PTA's website for valuable local leadership resources.

Green Team Update

The next monthly meeting of the 16th District PTA Green Team will be at 11:30 a.m. on February 14 at Bluegrass PRIDE (3120 Pimlico Pkwy Suite 126). A representative of the Salvation Army will attend to talk about their interest in developing a creative re-use center in Lexington. If your PTA doesn't have a representative on the District Green Team and you want to send someone to the meeting, we would love to have you represented. If you have any questions, please contact Maxine Rudder at maxine@bgpride.org or 859-266-1572.

Treasurer Tips

Important Treasurer Tax Information

Presidents please read if you are currently without a treasurer!

- No PTA is exempt from filing taxes every year.
- The tax filing deadline is November 15 for the previous school year.
- If you have not filed your taxes for the 2010-2011 school year, which ended on June 30, 2011, then YOU ARE IN VIOLATION WITH THE IRS.

Information for filing is available on the PTA page of the FCPS website at <http://www.fcps.net/media/391352/tax%20filing.pdf>. Please file ASAP.

For those who have already filed your taxes, thank you for realizing the importance of this task! The annual tax filing is a requirement of our continued tax exempt status. Also, please verify that you have sent a copy of your filing (either a print-out of the e-postcard, copy of form 990EZ or copy of form 990 with Schedule A and B) to the Kentucky PTA **and** to the Attorney General. The address are:

Kentucky PTA
P.O. Box 654
Frankfort, KY 40602-0654

Office of the Attorney General
Capitol Suite 118
700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601-3449

If you have ANY questions, please contact Colleen Wolfe, 16th District PTA treasurer, at (859) 338-2192 or colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com.

Upcoming Bylaws Renewals

The following PTAs have past or upcoming Bylaws renewals due:

Booker T - Due April 2012
Glendover - Due April 2012
Lansdowne - Due August 2011
Millcreek - Due August 2011
Tates Creek Middle - Due June 2012



Membership Minute

A new member's first impression of PTA is an important one and will often determine whether he or she becomes an active or a passive member. A new member expects to access member services and resources quickly, and to be welcomed into the group as soon as possible.

Accompany new members as they navigate the organization, and make accommodations for language or other perceived barriers.

Make sure that members know what to expect when they attend a meeting or embark on a project.

Principles of Diversity

Diversity not only assumes that everyone is different, but also recognizes that those differences add value. *Those differences are your community's assets. *Diversity includes different perspectives so the work of the organization can be effective for all. *Leaders have to commit to supporting and encouraging diversity and inclusiveness.

Increasing Diversity and Inclusiveness Step by Step

1. Assess Your Unit's Diversity

Ask these questions to assess your unit's approach to diversity:

Does the diversity of membership in the unit reflect the diversity in the school's population? If not, why not?

Is that diversity reflected on the board and among committee members? Are unit leaders aware of diverse talents in the school community? Does the unit find ways to accommodate those talents in its work? Does the unit have a method to collect information on the needs of all students? Is there a method of selecting which issues the unit will address that ensures fairness to all?

2. Actions You Can Take

Ask underserved populations why they are not involved in PTA, and then show them how PTA fits their needs. Do not make assumptions about them or their needs. PTA leaders can talk with community leaders of underserved populations to gain a clearer understanding of needs and cultures. Look at every person as an individual and not as a member of a group.

Recognize and celebrate differences; they make us unique. Integrate diversity into all aspects of operational and association functions. For example, if the group you're trying to recruit is far away from the school, look into holding meetings closer to them. The meetings do not always have to take place at school.

Discuss barriers to greater diversity and inclusiveness, and then remove the barriers. Do not just say you represent diverse populations—actually include them. For example, if language is keeping members from attending meetings or other functions, work with community leaders to provide translators.

3. Desired Outcomes

Develop at least one creative program or event that is inclusive of, and attractive to, a diverse membership.

Develop a membership recruitment and retention plan that promotes inclusiveness and diversity. For this plan to be successful, everyone must fully buy into the plan's goals and expectations. Create an environment in which every member is welcomed and valued for his or her unique abilities and contributions. Consider the various needs up front to help all families participate in PTA.

PTA started as parents and teachers standing up for kids. These advocates were responsible for getting the Juvenile Justice System started and Child Labor Laws enacted.

PTA Announcements

February 13— Kindergarten Readiness

5:30pm-7:00pm— Arlington Elementary

Summer activities and things you can do to get your kindergartener ready to start school.

Parents attending this event may register their kids at this time even if they are attending another school.

February 16—Advocacy

11:30am— 1:00pm (during Roundtable) IAKSS, Conference Room C Lunch provided

In honor of KY Children's Advocacy Day, we will discuss what advocacy is and how you can become an advocate at your own school, in your community and beyond, and why it is so important.

February 23—Homework Help

6:00pm—7:00pm—Northside Library (Russell Cave Rd)

Help your child by learning ways to assist with their homework.

March 8— PTA Basics Training III (PTA & SBDM Elections)

6:30pm -8:00pm—IAKSS, Conference Room C;

Dinner/Childcare provided

Learn how to effectively run SBDM and PTA elections including voting procedure, election rules, and how to avoid exclusiveness.

May 17—16th District PTA Luncheon

May 24—PTA Basics IV (Passing the Torch)

11:30am -1:00pm—IAKSS, Conference Room C

Tips for new officers wanting to know what to do next and a special time to honor current outgoing officers.

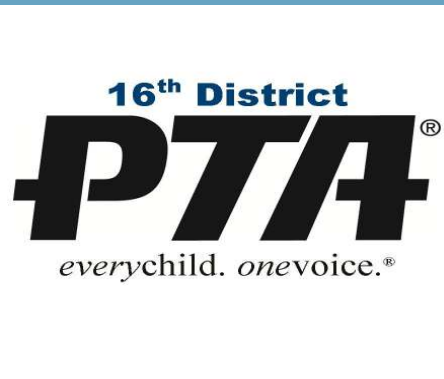
National PTA Statement on State of the Union Address

ALEXANDRIA, VA. (January 25, 2012) – “National PTA applauds President Barack Obama’s commitment to rebuilding America’s workforce by improving education,” said Betsy Landers, National PTA President.

“As our nation struggles to overcome a crippling economic downturn, prioritizing education and workforce preparation is a must. Without all stakeholders – parents, schools, teachers, the community, and government – invested in quality education that prepares students for a 21st century workforce, we will not meet the challenge of a changing global economy. The time is now for Congress to come together and fix No Child Left Behind to align with these goals.”

“While we agree that increased focus on state and local flexibility in education is needed, National PTA remains committed to ensuring educational equity through maintained federal investment in quality instruction and education programs, transparency and accountability – to both parents and students. With one in five students failing to graduate, states must reexamine policies and begin a meaningful dialogue in an effort to curb the high school dropout rate and increase academic achievement for all students. Parents and families must play an integral role in those conversations,” said Landers.

“The President is right – the perpetual cycle of campaigning must stop. Election year or not, parents are counting on Congress to overcome the partisan divide and do right by our nation’s students. National PTA looks forward to continued dialogue with Congress and the Administration to further promote educational equity for all children through successful bipartisan action on No Child Left Behind.”



16TH DISTRICT PTA LEADERSHIP

Executive Committee

President	Liza Holland	859-533-3038	Liza@LizaHolland.com
Vice President	Kathy Smiley	412-952-6011	Kthysmiley@yahoo.com
VP Membership	Jaime Nebbitt	859-619-3949	Jaime.nebitt@gmail.com
Recording Secretary	Kate Wood	859-396-2638	scrappykate@hotmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Jenn Crockett	859-533-5892	jenn.crockett@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Colleen Wolfe	859-338-2192	colleen.wolfe@insightbb.com
Past President	Jessica Berry	859-523-3277	jdberry@insightbb.com
Superintendent			
Designee	Alice Nelson	859-381-4307	alice.nelson@fayette.kyschools.us

News to Note

Anti-Bullying Bill Introduced

Louisville, KY—Louisville Rep. Mary Lou Marzian on Friday filed Anti-Bullying House Bill 336 (HB 336) in the Kentucky State Legislature. The measure would strengthen Kentucky's current anti-bullying statute by enumerating protected classes of students who are disproportionately targeted by bullying peers, as suggested by U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan. This includes protections based upon a student's actual or perceived race; religion; sexual orientation; gender identity; physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability; and other distinguishing characteristics.

After-School Programs' Newest Activity: Supper

At some schools and community centers across the country, baked chicken, steamed broccoli, apple slices, whole-wheat rolls, and milk are on the menu—but not just at lunch. While breakfast and lunch programs have long been a common part of the school day, all states now have the opportunity to serve students free after-school suppers, too, with the money for the meals coming from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. A few states have offered supper for years as part of a pilot program, but the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which passed late that year, expanded the program, allowing all qualifying after-school programs to take part and get paid by the USDA for the suppers they serve. In 2011, tens of thousands more suppers were served at a time when child poverty is on the rise—although getting programs started can be an undertaking that many child-care centers and after-school sites, especially those located apart from schools, aren't equipped to handle. For many of the students who eat those meals, food outside of school breakfasts and lunches is scarce, said Lois Hazelton of the New York Department of Health, who oversees the program in her state. For more information, please visit www.edweek.org.