

KEA President's Points

April 25, 2018



The Kentucky Education Association is the preeminent voice for quality public education.

We unite, organize and empower members to advocate for themselves and to ensure a quality public education for every Kentucky student.

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Dear Member,

These are uncertain times in public education. Kentucky educators have endured a school year of anxiety over the future of public schools that has resulted in an unprecedented surge in activism and engagement among our ranks. Running through all our efforts is a single goal: to provide a world-class education for every Kentucky student. To accomplish that, we need a highly trained and adequately compensated workforce. We need access and opportunity for EVERY student, no matter their zip code. We need the funding and resources necessary to provide rich learning experiences for students of all skill levels. We also need a government that is supportive of these ideals.

Our challenges as educators are far from over.

We must unite, organize, and empower each other to join forces to combat this war on our public schools. Have you asked your colleagues to join with us? What will you commit to doing this summer and fall to help change the course of the negative narrative about our public schools? We need to be there for each other as support and direction. KEA is committed to leading this charge. I hope you will commit to talking to other educators, both teachers and education support professionals, about how important KEA is as a voice in Frankfort for you and public education in Kentucky.

KY has a new Commissioner of Education

The Kentucky Board of Education met for several hours behind closed doors last week to discuss the exit of Commissioner Stephen Pruitt and appoint Dr. Wayne Lewis as the interim Commissioner. Dr. Pruitt ultimately decided to resign which left much of the KDE's work hanging in the balance. All of the Town Halls Dr. Pruitt had scheduled across the state to gain feedback around high school graduation requirements

were canceled. Instead, Dr. Lewis is providing this link so anyone that wishes to submit feedback can do so. The survey can be obtained [here](#).

Are you a brand new or existing Local President?

All existing or newly elected Local Presidents of ESP, teacher or merged locals should plan to attend our annual Local Presidents + Next Generation Conference. Like any member organization, the health and vitality of KEA depend on the engagement of its members and on the strength and vision of its leaders. That is especially true at the local level, where good leaders know that the most important thing they will ever do is to identify and prepare their replacements. The 2018 Local Presidents + Next Generation Leaders will be held July 15-16-17 at the Four Points Sheraton at 1938 Stanton Way in Lexington. Local presidents, you should bring with you a member from your local that has leadership potential and who is interested learning what it takes to be an elected leader in KEA. Please register your team [here](#).

How will you celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week?

Many local associations use this week (May 7 to 11) to honor the hard work of teacher members. If you're having trouble coming up with ideas, here are sites you can visit that might help:

<http://www.nea.org/grants/66381.htm> and
<https://www.pta.org/home/events/PTA-Teacher-Appreciation-Week>

Dates to Remember:



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| April 25 | Administrative Professionals Day |
| May 7-11 | National Teacher Appreciation Week |
| May 15 | Last day an employee can receive a nonrenewal notice |

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

KEA President
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