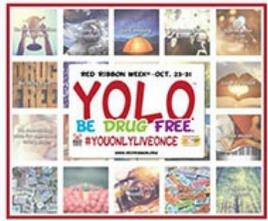


KEA President's Points

October 26, 2016



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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Red Ribbon Week

This week schools across the Commonwealth are celebrating Red Ribbon Week. This annual event helps make our students more aware of the benefits of leading a drug-free life. This year's theme is #YOLO (You Only Live Once). Check out <http://redribbon.org/theme/> for activities and information you can share with students this week.

State Pension Oversight Board met this week

KEA was in attendance this week when the state Pension Oversight Board (POB) met. This meeting was chaired by Rep. Brent Yonts. Testimony was given by many stakeholder groups such as the League of Cities, KY Chamber of Commerce, Bluegrass Institute, KRTA and others. One theme that emerged was an appreciation for the Governor and the Legislature's funding commitment to the state's pension systems in the 2016-2018 budget. Over 1.1 billion dollars was earmarked for both KRS (KY Retirement System) and TRS (Teacher Retirement System of KY). This influx of cash has helped to stabilize both pension systems, as noted by testimony of both groups. KEA agrees with this sentiment and encourages members to thank their legislators for their commitment to the livelihood of our education employees.

Another theme discussed by many was the idea of "transparency". Many groups and POB members still feel that there are changes that need to be made that give more information to the public about system operations and the benefits of individual members.

There were a number of legislative recommendations made. However, 2017 is a short 30 day session. Any legislation that hopes to pass and be signed by the Governor will have to have widespread support. KEA will continue to monitor these POB meetings through the session start.

Members should be aware that KEA and its lobby team are working diligently with other stakeholder groups to come up with sensible solutions to our pension problems. Stay tuned for updates on Pension changes in future issues of President's Points.

[KEA needs team of 6 to go the NEA-East Minority/Women's Leadership Training Program](#)

The MLT and WLT Leadership Conference East will prepare early career educators and emerging leaders to be powerful advocates for their students, their profession, and their Association. The hands-on training curriculum teaches participants foundational leadership skills, the logistics of running for elected office, and how to advocate for student-centered policies and social justice issues that impact their schools and communities.

The MLT and WLT Conference-East, will be held Friday, January 27 - Sunday, January 29, 2017, at the Marriott Tampa Waterside Hotel & Marina in Tampa, Florida.

KEA has been asked to identify six team members: four (4) team members should be ethnic-minority Association members and at least two (2) team female/male members.

NEA is encouraging state affiliates to consider sending diverse teams representing the following groups:

- Student members, emerging Association leaders (0-5 years), or members new to NEA Leadership Trainings.
- Participants who are representative of the ethnic diversity within the state, including education support professionals.

If you have never attended an NEA conference before and are interested in representing KEA at this event please send an email to keapresident@kea.org with the following information: Name, years of work experience in public schools, gender, ethnicity, KEA Membership category (Teacher, ESP, student) and a few sentences as to why you want to attend.

****Please write in the subject line: MLT/WLT**

Applicants will be accepted until November 1 and everyone will be notified of their participation status by November 5th.

Dates to Remember:



Nov. 8th - Election Day! **Go VOTE!!**

Nov. 14-18 - American Education Week

Nov. 16th - National ESP Day

Nov. 30th - Locals should return KEA

Delegate forms to vleathers@kea.org

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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