

# KEA President's Points

September 6, 2017



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.

## Quick Links

[Pension Information](#)

[KTIP Trainings](#)

## Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Dear Member,

September is Public Pension Awareness Month! This week we are asking all educators to participate in a 10 minute meeting at their worksite to talk with your colleagues about pensions. Download the KEA App and discover how easy it is to access information from KEA and also be able to contact your legislators at the click of a button.

## PENSION NEWS

1) Our offices have been flooded with calls from members asking, "Should I retire NOW?" Our advice to those with questions about making such a personal financial decision is:

- o Teachers: to contact the Teacher Retirement System of Kentucky at 1-800-618-1687, you can also download the TRS Pathway App to log in to your account information.
- o Classified school employees: to contact the County Employee Retirement System at 502-696-8800. We are being told the CERS is so busy with appointments that it is better to call or use the online calculators to estimate benefits.



Let us stress, ***there is NO bill currently filed around pension reform.*** There have only been suggestions and ideas thrown around and to make quick retirement decisions based on rumors and innuendo is not advised. The Governor has

pledged that any legislation will not contain an emergency clause, and that folks will have ample time to make good financial decisions about their retirement if any changes occur.

2) KEA leaders met with decision makers twice last week to discuss pensions. Discussions are on-going, however we disagree on many fronts. We encourage members to continue contacting their legislators to

advocate for a defined benefit system of retirement for current and future employees. We need the state to honor our inviolable contract. We have made our payments on a regular and timely basis. We need to strongly encourage legislators to come up with solutions that do not penalize the pocket books of public workers. We need to advocate for new dedicated revenue streams and creative ways to keep our systems intact.

3) KEA continues to have meetings with legislators and other stakeholder groups to share information. We are encouraging our local presidents to have meetings with their Superintendent to set up district wide events around pensions and begin to make plans on how we can best advocate for the students and public school employees in each of our 173 districts.

[Click here](#) to view this week's pension fact video. Make sure to share on your social media platforms and use the #apensionisapromise.

### KEA Offers KTIP Trainings to first year teachers

KEA offers training for KTIP teachers and their Resource Teachers (RT). The Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) allows this training material to count as two (2) outside classroom hours if both the KTIP and RT attend together. This training is FREE to KEA members. Non-members may attend for \$50 per person. To register call the KEA Office hosting the training you would like to attend. Space may be limited, so don't delay.

[View the flyer](#) for dates, locations, and times of trainings across the state and the contact information to register at the nearest KEA office.

### NEA sets up Relief Fund for Educators hit by Harvey

As we've all witnessed, Hurricane Harvey devastated the Gulf Coast. We know that many members of our NEA family have been affected by this devastating, historic storm; in fact, estimates are that in Texas, as many as 30 percent of TSTA members may be impacted. We are working hard to raise funds on behalf of our sisters and brothers as they begin the slow and excruciating process of rebuilding their lives financially and emotionally. NEA and the NEA Foundation have created the Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund, and your support in encouraging donations to this fund is desperately needed. In addition, NEA Member Benefits' partners are offering special assistance to members in need and NEA has compiled a list of resources for members affected by Harvey. Please visit [www.nea.org/harvey](http://www.nea.org/harvey) for more information and other resources related to the hurricane and relief efforts.

### Dates to Remember:



**Sept 13**

Wear Red for Public Ed

**Sept 15**

KEA "Read Across America Grants" due

Sincerely,

**Stephanie Winkler**

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