

KEA President's Points

January 3, 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,
Happy New Year from all of us at KEA! 2018 looks to be a challenging year for state employees. The 2018 regular Legislative Session officially began yesterday. Leadership elections, rules, and legislative processes will probably take most of this first week to complete. We must remain united with other public servants in our quest to fight for our defined benefit pensions, finding new state revenue streams, and the completion of a state budget that will not harm the vital services our Commonwealth demands.

PENSION NEWS

1) On Dec. 28th Governor Bevin ordered most state agencies to cut their budgets by 1.3%. This spending cut totaling \$158 million is in response to filling a whole left by a revenue shortfall this fiscal year. This cut is not supposed to impact K-12 education or state retirement systems.

2) 2017 came and went and the Governor did not get his special session on pensions. That's is in HUGE part to your communication with legislators and community members about the devastating impacts of changing our pensions would have on current and future generations. THANK YOU is not sufficient for what each of you did to inform, empower, and educate each other around the issue of pensions. We must continue to do this good work into 2018 and beyond. We must stick together with our brothers and sisters in public service to do what is right for the citizens of Kentucky.

3) Please consider taking time during the 2018 Legislative Session to visit your legislators and talk to them personally about how you feel about pensions, public education and public service. If you want to know more about how you can arrange to visit legislators please contact your local president or local KEA Staff.

We were able to avoid devastating pension reform in a special session due to your good working calling your legislators and attending forums to hold them accountable.

We must take action this week to be sure legislators know that we are still paying attention. Please call your legislator tomorrow at 1-800-372-7181! Remember that snow days are the perfect opportunity to join us at the Capitol! KEA's team of lobbyists will be there every day and we love having company. Please make plans to attend your Day of Learning and join us on days when school is canceled due to weather.

KEA #DifferenceMakers Student Art Contest

The KEA Membership, Organizing, Visibility, and Engagement (MOVE) Committee is sponsoring a student art contest called #DifferenceMakers. Students P-12 are encouraged to submit original portraits of a public school employee that has made a difference in their lives. Photos and other media in 8 ½" X 11" size submission are permitted. Cash prizes will be awarded to one student and their teacher in each of the 4 grade spans. For details and rules please find more information [here](#).

KEA offers scholarships to Aspiring Educators

If you know of a junior or senior education major that belongs to the KEA Student Program and is in financial need of a scholarship, then we have just the right member benefit for them! Eligible members can find application information for the KEA Marvin Dodson Carl Perkins Scholarship on the KEA website [here](#).

Do you know a colleague that goes above and beyond their regular job duties?

Consider nominating that person for either the KEA Teacher or ESP of the Year. Any KEA member who works in the Kentucky public schools is eligible for this \$1,000 cash award and will become the state nominee for the national competitions in each of these two categories. Deadline for nominations and application information can be found to [nominate an ESP member here](#), or to [nominate a teacher member here](#).

Dates to Remember:



- Jan. 15** MLK Holiday- KEA Offices Closed
- Jan. 16** Deadline for: KEA TOY & ESP of the
Year, KEA Constitutional Amendments,
Filing for KEA Election

Sincerely,

Stephanie Winkler

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