

**New York State**



*everychild. onevoice.*<sup>®</sup>



# Resolutions: From Issue to Action

What Are They?  
Where Do They Come From?  
How Do They Relate to PTA Advocacy?

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NYS PTA Convention 2016

# Framework: A Vision/Mission

## Our PTA Vision

**Making every child's potential a reality by  
establishing the New York State Congress  
of Parents and Teachers, Inc.  
(NYS PTA)**

**as the premier organization for parent involvement  
and advocacy for all children.**

## Our PTA Mission

- **A powerful voice for all children**
- **A relevant resource for families and communities**
- **A strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child**

# What is a Resolution?



Resolution= a **statement** on an issue, concern, or problem that:

- Establishes an official PTA **position**
- Formalizes our **research-based** position
- Proposes **action** in the form of an original main motion
- Comes before convention **delegates** for their consideration and adoption
- Upon adoption, becomes part of NYS PTA's "Where We Stand"

# How Do Resolutions Fit Into PTA Advocacy?

THEY:

- **Unify and EMPOWER** members
- Tell others **what PTA stands for**: concrete positions on specific issues
- Provide the basis to **promote and influence**

EDUCATION

LEGISLATION

POLICY

PROGRAM



**Resolutions + Action => Power**

# Where Do We Find Resolutions?

Upon adoption,  
Resolutions become  
part of the  
official NYS PTA  
Advocacy Document  
“Where We Stand”

- Explanation-Key
- Table of Contents
- 14 Categories
- Position Papers
- Index-Keyword

## WHERE WE STAND

2015

THE BASIS FOR ACTION



*Where We Stand* is the official *position* document of the New York State PTA. It is comprised of resolution *statements* adopted by convention delegates. These statements are intended to guide members as to what *action* to take on specific issues that affect the education, health and welfare of children and youth.

Resolutions that appear in this document are reconsidered within seven years of their original adoption or reaffirmation. At seven year increments, they are reintroduced to convention delegates. By majority vote, delegates determine whether to adopt positions that have been recommended for *retention* (reaffirmation) or *update*, or to be *rescinded*. A resolution may be rescinded from this document when the action(s) in the resolved clauses has been taken. Rescinded resolutions are entered into an ongoing record of retired resolutions. Action may be taken through legislation, regulation or program. Delegates may also be asked to adopt a position(s) in the form of a *new* resolution, one that has not been previously presented to the delegate body. Resolutions are arranged from the most recently adopted retention(s), update(s) and new resolution(s) to the oldest within one of 14 issue categories.

The PTA is effective only through the support and action of its members. Once positions are adopted, the NYS PTA relies on local units, councils and regions to educate members and the public on the issues and to encourage grassroots advocacy.

### KEY:

(R-) Retention – convention delegates voted to retain a position after seven years, and wording remains as originally submitted.

(U-) Update – convention delegates voted to retain after seven years, but wording has been changed or removed from the original position.

SED State Education Department

NYS New York State

### HOW TO READ DATES:

Most recent year of adoption, followed by (“R-” or “U-” plus the year(s) submitted).

Examples – Retention: 2013 (R-06); Update: 2013 (U-06); New: 2013

The statements for *Action* that appear in this document are the “resolved” clauses of resolutions, numbered and written as adopted by convention delegates. Since NYS PTA is a branch of the National PTA, it is important to refer to National PTA’s **Legislative Program** as an additional action guide.

# RESOLUTIONS

Can Be Divided Into  
4 CATEGORIES



# RESOLUTIONS

## #1: Retention

A resolution that:

- Is previously adopted
- Is reviewed every **SEVEN** years
- Can be retained or rejected
- Can **NOT** be amended

# RESOLUTIONS

## Retention

### RETENTION #3:

#### SCHOOL NURSES – 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. encourages its units and councils to assess with the staff and school boards of their districts the risks of having inadequate health care for students, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urges the State Education Department to mandate a full-time, registered nurse in every school building.



# RESOLUTIONS

## #2: Update

A resolution that:

- Is previously adopted
- Has been changed in its wording
- Revises an original resolve
- Deletes an original resolve
- Can be adopted, rejected, amended  
(only revised clause may be amended)

# RESOLUTIONS

## UPDATE #1:

### SALE OF TOBACCO TO MINORS – 2009 (R-'02, R-'95, R-'88)

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urges local units to seek the cooperation of their local law enforcement agencies in enforcing the law banning the sale of tobacco and nicotine delivery products to minors and those local ordinances pertaining to it, and be it further

**RESOLVED** that the New York State PTA urges its local units to communicate with their local governments expressing their desire to see stringent penalties for offense of these laws and to seek local ordinances banning cigarette machines, demanding their removal after first offense or at least regulating their locations within an establishment, making them less accessible.

# RESOLUTIONS

## #3: New



A resolution that:

- Was never presented to convention delegates
- Has been recommended for consideration by NYS PTA Resolutions Committee & Executive Committee
- Can be **amended, adopted, rejected**

# RESOLUTIONS

## 2016 New Resolutions

### NEW RESOLUTION #1:

**GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS)  
AND GENETICALLY ENGINEERED (GE) FOODS**

### NEW RESOLUTION #2:

**EDUCATION ON THE SAFE USE OF DEET**



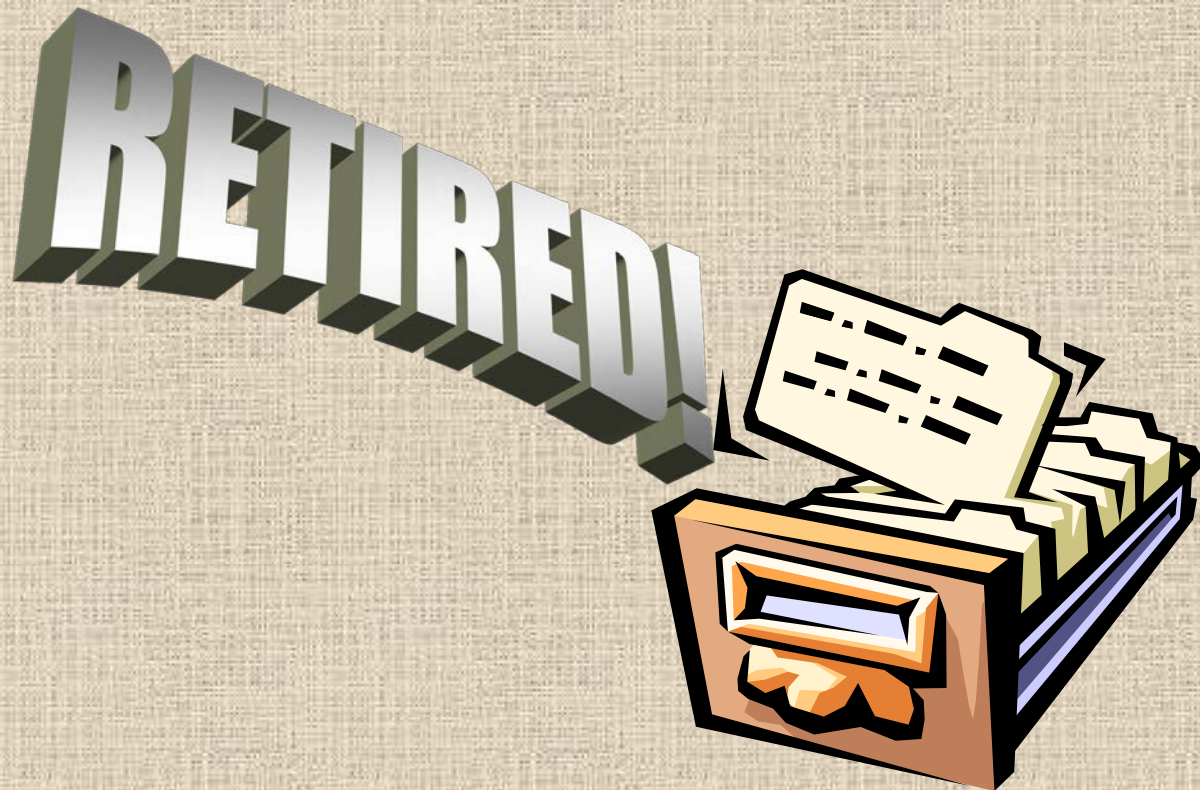
**During the caucus that follows the opening session of convention you  
can meet the writers of any new resolution.**

# Occasionally there is need for an Emergency Resolution

## Regents Examination Schedules - 2008

**Resolved:** that the NYS Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. strongly urges the NYS Education Department to maintain the current practice of administering Regents Examinations only during designated Regents Exam periods.

## #4: Resolutions Can be Rescinded, Then...



# When Do We Rescind Resolutions?

1. *When action has taken place to carry out resolution resolves*

- State/federal/local legislation enacted
- Policy/program implementation
- Federal/state regulations adopted:  
NYSED/Commissioner's  
Regulations

2. *When the issue has become obsolete*



# How Do We Retire a Resolution?

- In 2006, National PTA began rescinding all resolutions that either have been enacted into legislation, regulation, or program, or have become obsolete since 1897.
- Based on Robert's Rules of Order, revised 10<sup>th</sup> Edition,
- "a resolution must be 'rescinded' by the body that originally adopted it in order for that resolution to be legally retired."
- Convention delegates will be presented with a list of resolutions that have been enacted or have been superseded by current resolutions to rescind (by vote) "en bloc."
- Retired resolutions will be entered into historical record.





# Rescissions



## RESCISSION #1:

**BAN ON DEET WITH CONCENTRATION OVER 30% – 2009 (R-'02, R-'95)**

**RESOLVED** that the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. urges the legislature to ban the use of DEET with concentrations over 30%.



**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**You have taken issues to action thru resolutions!**

**YOUR ADVOCACY HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL!**

# What's the Next Step?

You attend convention.  
By adopting resolutions you  
**RETAIN** previous positions,  
**UPDATE** others,  
add **NEW positions** to  
NYS PTA's advocacy document:  
**"Where We Stand"**

...and **Retire** some to Historical Record  
*Now is the time to act.*

# How Do Resolutions Fit into Advocacy?

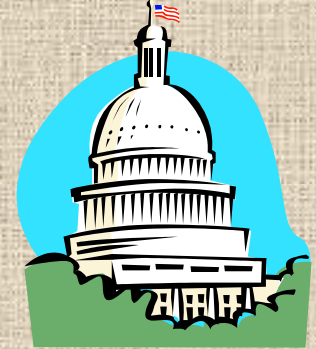


Establishing PTA positions  
Guiding members to  
*Take ACTION!*

Where can you find them?

*"Where We Stand"*

provides members current PTA positions  
and the recommended actions



## ***ACTION*** comes in ***VARIOUS FORMS***

What does the resolution say needs to be done?

- To ***educate*** or ***raise awareness***
- To create or change ***policy*** or ***program***
- To support or encourage ***legislation***

***MEANS: Letters, e-mail, phone, testimony, presentations.  
Dialogue with school boards, administrators, legislators,  
and policy makers!***

# Need to Write a New Resolution?

## Step #1: IDENTIFY YOUR ISSUE

- Something that bothers or energizes you
- Something that needs to be done
- Need to create new or change existing law, regulation or policy
- Check: *What you want done agrees with PTA mission and policies*
- *Position is not already in "Where We Stand"*
- *Proposed action has statewide application or broader relevance*

***YOU HAVE DECIDED A RESOLUTION IS NECESSARY AND YOU ARE READY***

# Writing a Resolution

## Step # 2: RESEARCH THE ISSUE

- Set up schedule: allow enough time
  - Check existing laws and regulations
  - Use a variety of resources
  - Research thoroughly
  - Keep a record of research and sources
  - Review/check information collected
- ...and if you still think action is necessary,



***YOU ARE READY TO WRITE YOUR RESOLUTION!***

# Writing a Resolution (cont'd)

## Step #3: DRAFT YOUR TEXT

- Clearly set forth what you want done and by whom
- Decide what specific actions PTA should take to address issue
- Each ***ACTION statement becomes a RESOLVED CLAUSE***
- Use a logical sequence of statements to explain rationale (reasons) for your resolved clauses
- List reasons from general to specific
- Each reason needs three (3) pieces of evidence to support
- **RATIONALE = WHY = WHEREAS CLAUSES**

# Writing the Final Draft



Now put the steps together...

But first, *reverse the order!*

the **Why (Whereas)** goes first

the **Action (Resolved)** follows

*\* You are now ready to present your resolution to your unit, council, region FOR APPROVAL*



# Exercise

## Putting Theory into Practice



### *The Issue:*

- What do you want to happen?
- Who can help you, and how?
- Why?

**Research** – Do enough background work to build a case for support

### **Narrative Summary** includes:

- Statement about the issue/situation that the resolution will address
- Statement that cites the cause of the problem
- Statement that describes the severity of the issue: need to solve
- Statement that explains how the proposed resolution will help solve the issue

# Submit Your Resolution

## The Final Steps...

- Be adopted by sponsor PTA
- Be received (not postmarked) in NYS PTA office no later than APRIL 15
- Be accompanied by:
  - Cover sheet
  - Narrative Summary
  - Table of contents
  - References
  - Pertinent background information
  - *Signatures!*

So, when we talk about how to carry out the PTA vision and mission, resolutions are the first step...

- towards effective advocacy.
- In advocacy, we lend our *"voices"* on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.
- In advocacy, we *mobilize* for action.
- *Resolutions are the foundations that inform and guide our words and actions on behalf of all children and youth.*

# Any questions?



Contact Information

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**The NYS PTA Resolutions Committee  
thanks you for taking time to attend this workshop  
and wishes you an outstanding Convention weekend.**

**By learning and working together,  
We *will* make a difference!**

**2016 Resolutions Committee**

**Dana Platin, Resolutions Coordinator/Committee Chair**

**Cindy Ames, Field Support Coordinator**

**Pat Assortato, Nassau Region Director**

**Joyce Cattani, Special Education Specialist**

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PowerPoint based on The Resolutions Puzzle by L. Ajemian