

Kick Back, Relax, Learn: Family Activities to Avoid Summer Slide

By Joyce Cattani, NYS PTA Special Education Chair



It seems like just yesterday that we were shoveling tons of snow and wondering when it was all going to go away. And now it's almost the end of school and we are worrying about what to

do with the kids. Parents of all students struggle with how to plan activities that will provide their children with opportunities for learning. Ask an educator and they will tell you that all kids regress over school breaks and vacations, especially over the summer.

Regression can be defined as the loss of learned skills usually after breaks in instruction and is normal in all children. Some special education students may require additional instruction to "recoup" their abilities because of "substantial" regression. According to the New York State Education Department, substantial regression would be indicated by a student's inability to maintain developmental levels due to a loss of skill, set of skill competencies or knowledge during the months of July and August. The typical period of review or reteaching ranges between 20 and 40 school days. As a guideline for determining eligibility for an extended school year program, a review period of eight weeks or more would indicate that substantial regression has occurred. If a student meets the criteria, the Committee for Special Education (CSE) may recommend Extended School Year services (ESY). These services may include related services, specialized instruction in combination with related services as appropriate, or full or half-day daily instruction

in special class programs. Additional information about criteria can be found on the New York State Education Department website: <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/specialed/finance/2011QA.htm>.

So what can a parent do to encourage not only their special education child, but each child, and keep them engaged in the learning process during those lazy days of summer? Remember any activity can be a learning experience. Before the end of the year, reach out to their special education teacher and service providers for their assistance on activities you can do with your child. Remember we are/were our child's first teacher and we can encourage them while having fun along the way. Be sure to choose activities that are at their level and break down directions into simple steps. Take advantage of any activity to foster learning. Short learning sessions throughout the summer can be very productive. Here are some suggestions for parents that not only incorporate learning but more importantly are fun as well.

The most important thing we can do for our children is to READ, READ AND READ. Read to them. Read with them.

Parents should try and incorporate reading into everyday activities. For example:

- Read the same book.
- Read out loud.
- Parents should let their children see them reading. Children tend to imitate behaviors that they see. What better way but for them to see their parents read?

But remember that summer reading should be fun, not work. Visit your local library. Join their reading programs and participate in the activities. Buy books on tape and listen to them in the car or wherever you are together.

- Encourage their writing by letting them write in a journal. They can write about whatever they read and do. Let their imagination be the guide. Also let them illustrate their stories.
- Plant a garden. Children will learn about nature and the responsibility of caring for something. You can choose plants that appeal to their senses either by scent, color or the birds and wildlife they attract.
- Bake and cook together – children can learn about fractions and nutrition. They can read the recipe and reinforce following multi-step directions.
- Take summer field trips. Make a trip or outing educational by having the child plan the itinerary, budget and route. Even a simple errand to the supermarket can be a learning experience.
- Playing board games together as a family can reinforce a wide variety of skills including turn taking, reading and following multi-step directions as well as social skills.

Engage in activities that rely on sensory materials. Use play dough or, even better, make your own. There are excellent recipes that you can find on the Internet. Draw letters and shapes in shaving cream or in sand. Use short stubby crayons. Use chalk to

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HAPPY SPRING!

It seemed as if winter would never leave, but at last the robins are back, the crocuses are blooming, and PTA units are preparing to celebrate the close of another school year.

In all units this should be a time of reflection. Leaders should be thinking of all the wonderful programs and activities that have been presented to children, thanks to the efforts of the PTA. Members should be brainstorming on ways to make the coming school year even more successful. Much has been accomplished, yet much more needs to be achieved.

As I reflect on the past few months, I am encouraged by the responsiveness and dedication of our members. You have responded to our alerts for action in a grand fashion. In the month of March, over 8,000 messages were sent to our legislators. You have shared your stories and urged them to rethink their commitment to quality education in New York State. Thank you.

But...our work is not done. We need to continue to send messages to Albany and Washington. We need to continue to demonstrate that PTA will not stand quietly while education is targeted unfairly in the budget. We can only do that with your cooperation.

Spring is also a time of renewal. Those of you who are continuing in leadership roles in your units have affirmed your willingness to give your valuable time to the causes of all children. Some will take up the leadership mantle for the first time as presidents and members of executive committees. I congratulate you on your dedication to our mission, and applaud your commitment to serve. Much has been written about dwindling volunteers in our country. I prefer to think that more would volunteer if asked.

So... I encourage you to ask the parents in your schools to give of their time for the good of their children. Send out fliers asking individuals when – not if – they can help out. Perhaps a few hours a month, only at night, only weekends – the opportunities are endless.

Happy Spring. Celebrate achievements. Congratulate those you have served. Support those willing to serve. Whatever you do, the children benefit.



Check out our Website at
www.nyspta.org



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The New York Parent Teacher is a publication of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., One Wembley Court, Albany, NY 12205-3830. The periodical is published four times a year with a Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer edition.

Member Subscription Cost: \$12 per year
Single Copies: \$3
Non-Member Subscription Cost: \$20
Single Copies: \$5

USPS 948-520
Periodicals Postage paid at Albany, NY

Postmaster:
Send address changes to *New York Parent Teacher*, New York Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc., One Wembley Court, Albany, NY 12205-3830. Allow 30 days for delivery of first issue. Change of address requests must be received at least two weeks before date of issue.

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Message from Chuck Saylor, National PTA President

On March 7, the Board of Directors of National PTA unanimously approved a motion to recommend to the delegates of the 115th National PTA Annual Convention in June 2011 to increase the National PTA dues 50 cents from \$1.75 to \$2.25. This is the first dues increase in over 10 years. In that time, National PTA has produced tangible results for children—just as it did yesterday, does today and will do again tomorrow.

- In the 1950s, National PTA helped millions of children get vaccinated against deadly diseases such as polio and whooping cough. Today, National PTA protects children from the current threat of bullying with its “Connect for Respect” initiative.
- National PTA was an early supporter of school lunch programs. The association’s efforts to smooth passage of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act last year will ensure that millions of children will have healthier meals at school and will not go hungry.
- For more than 40 years, National PTA’s Reflections program has ensured that more than 500,000 children every year will engage in art in the classroom, even as arts education continues to be cut from school budgets.
- An early advocate for kindergarten and early education programs, National PTA is helping lead the effort to improve educational outcomes for millions of students, both now and in the future, by encouraging implementation of Common Core State Standards.
- As the leading voice for parent engagement, National PTA is developing strong research based programs, such as our partnership with Harvard Family Research Project’s Family Engagement Programs, where we are implementing best practices, and providing our members and leadership with the issue briefs and advocacy tools that are designed to be used on a grassroots level.
- We are also enhancing our advocacy efforts as outlined in our strategic plan and we are ramping up our presence in national conversations around education reform. National PTA has been instrumental in bi-partisan efforts including the introduction of the Family Engagement in Education Act, the White House Bullying Summit and First Lady Michelle Obama addressing our membership at our annual convention.

Every child benefits from the influence of PTA on policies that affect the education, health and welfare of children. National PTA remains the only association that advocates for all children—something it has done for 115 years. National PTA has streamlined its operational expenses and shifted dollars from overhead costs to programs and initiatives serving our children and families—making for a more efficient association.

The dues increase will enable National PTA to continue its high-impact work on behalf of all children across the nation, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, in Puerto Rico and in Department of Defense schools overseas. The dues increase is a

proactive way of ensuring National PTA remains relevant to PTAs and parents nationwide, ensuring a brighter future for our children.

National PTA Services to States and Local Units

- We produce five annual editions of *Our Children* magazine.
- The PTA Back to School Kit is distributed to over 24,000 active local units.
- States receive at least one visit from a National Representative.

Enhancements to States and Local Units: Investing in the future of PTA, below are projects currently in the works:

- Innovative tools on cutting-edge research and best practices that can be used for family engagement work on the State, District and school level.
- An advocacy awareness campaign that will reach all levels of the association and can bolster recruitment of new members.
- A grassroots advocacy training of trainers; scaling up PTAs advocacy model on developing issue based campaigns.
- New resources to assist parents on transitioning their children from early education to kindergarten supported by our Head Start grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Because of these plans and the countless volunteers who are devoted to helping all children, millions upon millions of families have benefited from our work—simply put, we have shaped the way in which our nation’s families function. Yesterday we closed down child labor camps, today we are ensuring our children eat a more well balanced lunch and tomorrow we will continue to make every child’s potential a reality.

Charles J. “Chuck” Saylor

National PTA President

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Engaging Families, Maximizing Opportunity: Together We CAN Make a Difference!

By Lana Ajemian, NYS PTA First Vice President



It has surely been a challenging and extraordinary year for PTA advocacy!

Held at the Capitol Region's Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany, NY on March 19-20, the theme of the

2011 Legislation/Education Conference, Engaging Families/Maximizing Opportunity, hit on all advocacy cylinders with panel discussions, workshops and table talks delivered by fabulous guest presenters and our NYS PTA Advocacy Team.

Issues ran the gamut: from historic state aid cuts to strategies to save our public schools; from financial literacy to prescription drug literacy; from engaging families as school partners to protecting parents' rights to be engaged; from environmental/food safety to virtual safety. The engine driving every child's academic achievement and well-being reverberated throughout the conference – family, schools and communities working together!

Upon registration, participants were warmly greeted by Event Coordinator, Clare Hart and Administrative Assistant, Carol Raymond. Each attendee received a packet bursting with advocacy information, settled into their rooms, then set out for their first panel presentation, NYS Budget: Implications for Education.

This was a sobering exchange among representatives of the NYS Education Department, income diverse school districts, the teachers' union and PTA. Many thanks to this extraordinary group: NYSED's Charles Szuberla Jr.; Jericho UFSD's Dr. Joan Colvin; Schenectady's Interim Superintendent, John Yagielsky; Peter Applebee of NYSUT; and our very own Executive Administrator, Rick Longhurst. Each shared their views of the state's 2011-12 proposed education budget and its implications for our schools and communities and deftly responded to challenging questions from attendees.

The take away: proposed cuts defy adequacy, devastate our most vulnerable populations and undermine student opportunity to meet increased rigor of the learning standards – more than ever, this year we need PTA families engaged in “boots on the ground” advocacy!

Sunday morning, our second panel targeted Family-School Partnerships. The focus: to answer the why and how of “why does family engagement matter?”; and “how does recent legislation and regulation define a parent's role within our schools?” National PTA board member and EPIC/PIRC President Vito Borrello launched the discussion with an overview of the rationale and research that supports the value of family-school engagement and called attendees to action to protect jeopardized funding for Parent Information Resource Centers, the sole federal program for parent involvement. Evidence of how families influence a child's school success and well-being was enhanced from a social service perspective by school psychologist, Victoria Mosetti. Representing NYS superintendents, an impassioned Jim Viola added his personal exclamation point by intoning the need for PTAs to provide information and opportunity to assist parents and communities to be involved in their schools. Rounding out the discussion, the practical side of family-school engagement from a personal and local perspective was thoughtfully presented by South Colonie's school board vice president, Leonard Motta, and special education teacher, Tamora Hanley.

In keeping with our conference theme and commitment to 24 hours of issues exploration, during Saturday evening's dinner, conference attendees were caught up in a fast-paced, lively analysis of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) by NYS School Board's General Counsel, Jay Worona and Deputy Policy Director, Linda Bakst. DASA prohibits harassment and/or discrimination of students by employees or other students on school property or at school functions. Although this legislation has been lingering in the Legislature for years, recent media attention on bullying/suicide related inci-

dents resuscitated the bill. The law was enacted this past fall and has direct implications for school policy and codes of conduct.

Mr. Worona and Ms. Bakst gave a quick overview of the law's requirements and a review of challenges to First Amendment protections in relation to Internet bullying. Key “anti-bullying” policy elements were outlined as well as practical suggestions that included creating youth safety teams, use of the social media to inform students about how to be safe, etc.

Critical questions regarding implementation were raised: how will schools retrofit (codes of conduct) policies to reflect the requirements? How seriously will this law be taken? Will staff/student training be substantive or simply a check list? Most importantly, how do we get to a place where we can really effect positive change? The key – engaging home, school and community in the process! (Note: In alignment, beginning in April NYS PTA will join the NYSED subcommittee work group of the NYS All Students Act Task Force to provide parent input on policy provisions).

Following dinner, appreciative members were lured away from the Worona/Bakst tag team to enjoy dessert and visit the Advocacy Team Chairman displays.



Jay Worona, General Counsel for the NYSSBA gave a keynote speech on Saturday night concerning the Dignity for All Students Act. He was joined by his co-worker, Linda Bakst, Deputy Director for Policy Services.



The Conference kicked-off with a panel discussion led by NYS PTA Executive Administrator Rick Longhurst. Pictured next to him from left to right is NYS PTA First Vice President Lana Ajemian and President Maria Fletcher.

The Great Body Shop sponsored a delicious respite of coffee, cake and conversation among members and state issues chairs – thanks to the GBS for this chance to relax, chat and gather conference materials for colleagues back home! From there participants headed off for informal table talks, networking in the lounge, or for a good night's sleep!

Keeping our PTAs in step with new policies, laws and regulations that affect students and schools are a priority for this conference. With this in mind, our Sunday Lunch Keynote, NYSED's Assistant Commissioner of the Office of Teaching Initiatives, Robert Bentley, gave an up-to-the-minute report on New York's progress with reform of the teacher/principal evaluation process and the Regents initiatives to improve teaching as required by the federal Race to the Top award of funding.

With a realistic grasp of change and the challenge this brings to both the classroom and school building, Mr. Bentley provided an overview of the law's (Chapter 103 of the Laws of 2010) requirements, how the process will evolve, and the timeline for implementation. He thoughtfully highlighted the element of the evaluation process that requires teachers to communicate and collaborate with families, guardians and caregivers to enhance student development and success.

NYS PTA was a contributor to the teacher/principal evaluation standards design and was able to influence inclusion of critical elements for meaningful, two-way communication between home and

school. Opportunities to share perspectives and expertise serve to strengthen PTA's relationship with key decision makers. We are grateful to Mr. Bentley and his task force for bringing PTA to the table and embracing the key factor of family engagement in creating the evaluation standards. Reciprocally, through this collaborative spirit, sharing NYSED's approach to the redesign of school teacher/leader preparation and assessment provides our members with a greater understanding of the benefits and challenges in this reformative process.

Conference evaluations overwhelmingly cite member's reactions as "pumped" for advocacy! Our thanks to the NYS PTA Advocacy Team; our panel presenters; NYSED's Patricia Geary and Joanne LaCrosse; Mary Turner, HESC; Jenny Brannon, SEFCU; Gerald Dagostino, CPA, Financial Advisor; Angela Johanning, NYS PTA Youth Member; Lauren Hughes, Grassroots Environmental Education; Brian Matthews, Pharm. D.; Dr. Andrew McNally, Principal, Fishkill Elementary School; Joe Gorman, HESC; Debra Douglass, NYSDOH Bureau of Injury Prevention; Don Mays, Consumers Union; and Jill Penn, Assistant Principal, Sand Creek Middle School for their efforts to make this conference a success!



Conference attendees learn about advocacy during the ACT Workshop.

As mentioned in the opening statement, this has been an unprecedented year for NYS PTA Advocacy. With daily, sometimes hourly, changes in state budget projections and shifting positions and priorities of education partners and legislators, our members have had to be patient, flexible and attuned to alerts and changing information and nuances. Most importantly, we thank our NYS PTA members who attended this weekend for we deeply appreciate their time and effort to participate across a spectrum of issues and at every level of advocacy. It is you, our grassroots members, who matter most as you carry our message home and raise your voices on behalf of every child. Keep in mind that as we Engage Families to Maximize Opportunity, Together We CAN Make a Difference!

Thank You to Our Leg/Ed Sponsor!

The New York State PTA would like to thank our generous sponsor. Their support of our mission is greatly appreciated!

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Letter from a Past Student

On October 22, 1972 my father passed away at the age of 47 after a long battle with emphysema. I was 9 years old, one of seven total born to an immigrant mother with no job skills and no extended family whatsoever. On that day an arduous illness gave way to a horrific memory, crippling poverty, abject loneliness and an unknown future. The world seemed cruel, taunts by other kids over my “dead father”, adults and teachers who could only feel sorry for me and perhaps most cruel couldn’t even look me in the eye... even the Boy Scouts wouldn’t accept me because my dead father couldn’t participate.

In the spring of 1974 we were forced to move from our home to Selden, where I would have to spend the last year of elementary school in an unknown environment, yet another blow to an already miserable existence. Little did I know but on that first day, in that alien classroom, I would meet a man, Ted Brigham, whose actions would guide my life in ways I never thought possible.

Being young, poor and fatherless is a life filled with an endless series of embarrassments. Poor clothing, an un-kept yard, a car that doesn’t work and a free lunch card all serve as reminders to you, and others, of your lot in life. To some people in your world it’s fodder for harassment and to others it’s pity, but to a precious few it’s an opportunity to shine a lantern of hope. Ted Brigham held that lantern of hope and shared it with me on several occasions. Ted looked me in the eye when he talked to me. He explained to me in no uncertain terms that my life would someday be the life I made it and not the life that was given to me thus far. He went on to tell me that I could turn unfortunate events into great strengths, that I had seen things in my short life that all others would eventually see sometime in their life, and that I would be a step ahead of them. He told me I would have to work hard to break free of my childhood someday, that it wasn’t going to be easy and that immediate success wasn’t assured, he never pitied me, he never lied to me and he never missed an opportunity to tell me he was my friend.

Christmas rolled around and as in years past the dread of emptiness crept into my life. While the whole world seemed to revel in the joyous Christmas spirit, to me it was just another reminder of how poor and fatherless I really was. And then I received the first piece of mail ever in my life, a package from Mr. Brigham. I opened it and found a letter wishing me a Merry Christmas and a stamp collection book. I did have a friend in the world and that friend remembered me on Christmas, I cried so hard that day that I rendered the stamps useless.

Once a month Mr. Brigham would gather all of the students in his class and take them to the school kitchen to bake a birthday cake. On my birthday in 1975 it was the only cake I received, a yellow cake with chocolate frosting; to this day, my favorite. In the spring we planted bean seeds in empty milk containers and Mr. Brigham promised me they would grow, and to my amazement they did, right before my very own eyes; he was magic I thought.

The end of the year was approaching fast and with it the annual trip to Washington, DC. I diligently worked on my trip packet even knowing there was no possible way I could get the money to go. At the last minute Mr. Brigham

brought me to the school office and to my astonishment called my mother and announced to her that he had gotten some money from the PTA to send me. After the call he told me that I had earned it and didn’t need to tell the other kids the source of my funds. For the first time in my life I was able to do something on an equal footing with others without having to sweat the cost. I saw many awe inspiring things on that trip but the one that sticks out in my mind was Mr. Brigham going room to room handing out a late night snack of sandwiches he made; he was that kind of guy.

The year ended and I lost contact with Mr. Brigham. After several hard and unsuccessful years as a teenager I broke free from my childhood and entered the military. As Mr. Brigham pointed out earlier, the breaking free transition was hard. My first airline flight was to Korea where I went as a newly trained attack helicopter mechanic. I was a soldier and the only status anybody had was what they were wearing on their shoulders. I excelled in the military and eventually left a non-commissioned officer and an Army Commendation Medal recipient. I began my new life as a civilian and eventually became an engineering manager at a satellite manufacturing facility in my new home of California. I own a home, am married to a wonderful woman now 20 years and we have two wonderful children. My adult life hasn’t been handed to me, I worked hard for everything I’ve ever received and am proud and strong as a result.

My family and I have been back to Washington, DC a dozen or so times, even once viewing one of my satellites at the air and space museum. Only Mr. Brigham would have thought it possible that everybody in the U.S. would view their weather from a satellite that a poor fatherless kid built. I travel the world plying my trade and resting my now worn body. On each trip I think back to the darker days of my youth and the sequence of events and the people who helped bring me to that new location. I often think of Mr. Brigham.

Through the wonders of technology I was able to search for Mr. Brigham on the Internet and discovered he succumbed to cancer in 1995, the same year my now near college bound daughter was born. It’s a shame that I never got to thank him for his friendship and guidance but it’s heartwarming and fitting that there is a teacher of the year award named after him. Ted Brigham and the PTA organization reflect great credit upon themselves and the schools they serve. There doesn’t appear to be a yardstick that measures the success of their efforts but I can only think that it’s much greater than we can imagine. I’m sure if Ted were alive today he would be proud of the recipients of his award and the work that the PTA carries out daily. He would recognize them as fellow beacons of light... he would bake them a cake... and he would be their friend.

David Catterson
Windsor, California
Stagecoach Elementary class of 1975

NYS PTA Tells Lawmakers to Protect Education Aid

By Susan Pedo, NYS PTA Legislation Chair



PTA members from across New York State expressed their concerns about Governor Cuomo's proposed budget throughout the month of March, PTA's annual Advocacy Month. Their

message was clear and consistent: school districts cannot afford a \$1.3 billion budget reduction and property tax cap.

A NYS PTA delegation went to the State Capitol on March 21 to discuss funding reductions face-to-face with legislators. They delivered hundreds of letters signed by PTA members directly to the

Senate Majority Leader, the Assembly Speaker and the Governor's office.

Those meetings were followed by thousands more letters, calls, emails and postcards to State Executive and Legislative officials on PTA Virtual Lobby Day, March 22. Advocates asked state lawmakers to restore funding to meet the State's responsibility to provide quality education for children.

This year's Lobby Day doubled in size to bring PTA's budget priorities directly to more elected officials. While overall spending was reduced in the face of a \$10 billion state budget deficit, some key restorations were accomplished:

- \$229 million in formula-based education funding was restored;

- Universal pre-kindergarten was maintained at \$384 million;

- Funding for state-supported schools for the blind and deaf was restored – which also means slightly more aid for school districts.

Still, school districts have been hit hard by this budget and NYS PTA must continue to work to protect these gains and prevent further funding reductions. A property tax cap is also still under consideration and could compound the impact of budget cuts.

As economic uncertainty continues and state resources are diminished, NYS PTA's advocacy for children is more important than ever. With more than 340,000 members, the power of NYS PTA to stand up for every child with one voice is tremendous.

BYLAWS

Have you Gone Electronic with your Bylaws Yet?

By Linda King, NYS PTA Bylaws Chair

Bylaws form the legally binding document that governs your association and are designed to help your unit and council function in an orderly manner. In order to make this process user friendly and more effective, we developed an electronic process called **Bylaws EZ**. You simply answer a few questions online and the **Bylaws EZ** wizard puts your responses in the appropriate places in the bylaws template; the entire process takes about 15 minutes to complete.

Below are the answers to some frequently asked questions on **Bylaws EZ**:

- **Do we still need to form a Bylaws Committee?** Yes. Use three to five members including the chair. The chair should secure a copy of the most recent state approved bylaws. The committee should consult the Executive Board members and the membership for possible changes.
- **Does the length of time bylaws are approved change?** No. Bylaws must be adopted by the NYS PTA every three years for the unit and/or council to remain in good standing.

- **How do we access the *Bylaws EZ*?** Go to the NYS PTA website at: www.nyspta.org. Click on the **Bylaws EZ** button on the homepage under Quick Links. You will find complete instructions for both unit and council bylaws. The **Bylaws EZ** wizard will walk you through a series of easy questions – unit code, President's and Secretary's names, dues amount, President structure, Vice President structure, Secretary structure, Nominating Committee information and months of your election and annual meeting, Executive Committee members, Executive Board members, Council information and your quorum for meetings. The wizard validates the information as you go through each step.

- **What happens when using *Bylaws EZ*?** As information is inputted to **Bylaws EZ**, appropriate data or sections of text are added to the template. As the final step in this process, a completed draft template of your bylaws is available for printing or review. The committee should review this draft and repeat the process until the final draft meets all committee concerns.

- **What about the membership voting?** The membership must receive 30 days' notice of a meeting at which they will vote on any proposed changes or, if there are none, the proposed re-approval of the existing bylaws:

- Unit proposed bylaws are submitted to all members and must be approved by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting must be at a general membership meeting.
- Council proposed bylaws are submitted to all member units and must be approved by a 2/3 vote of members present and voting must be at the member units' general membership meetings.

- **What is the next step after the bylaws are adopted?** Once the bylaws are adopted, the President and Secretary must sign the cover page and insert the Adoption Date. Make a copy of this cover page for your records and send the signed original cover page to your Region Bylaws Chair (contact information is available on the NYS PTA

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2010-2011 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM WINNERS

"Together We Can..."

DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (State Winners – go on to National PTA)

Primary	Olivia G. Price	Babylon	John F. Kennedy Elem	Suffolk
Intermediate	Zoe G. Roman	Rockville Centre	Hewitt Elementary PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Francesca Mauceri	Smithtown	Nesapeake MS	Suffolk
Senior	Emerald J. Vidad	Sewanhaka CHSD	New Hyde Park Memorial HS PTSA	Nassau

AWARD OF MERIT (State Winners – to be displayed at Convention)

Primary	Ella Piscatello	Northport	Dickinson Ave PTA	Suffolk
Primary	Kiersten Pitfick	Northport	Ocean Avenue PTA	Suffolk
Primary	Jordan Ader	Smith Clove	Smith Clove PTA	Central Hudson
Primary	Matthew O'Connor	Long Beach	Lindell PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Justin Colón	East Meadow	Barnum Woods PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Lily Williams	Williamsville	Maple East Elem. PTA	Western
Intermediate	Julianna Okpych	Commack	Burr PTA	Suffolk
Intermediate	Emilee Davis	Williamsville	Maple East Elem PTA	Western
Middle/Junior	Antonia Marchese	Franklin Square	Polk Street PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Monica DiScioscia	Johnstown	Knox Jr High School PTSA	Mohawk Valley
Middle/Junior	Rialee Schinella	Wappingers Falls	Wappingers Jr High PTA	Taconic
Middle/Junior	Kathryn Bjorklund	Sachem	Seneca MS PTA	Suffolk
Senior	Madeline Rutan	Rochester	Penfield High School	Genesee Valley
Senior	Alison Ribellino	South Huntington	Walt Whitman HS PTA	Suffolk
Senior	Marissa Graham	South Huntington	Walt Whitman HS PTA	Suffolk
Senior	Alexa Castaldo	Massapequa	Massapequa JR/SR HS PTSA	Nassau

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AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (State Winners – go on to National PTA)

Primary	Cassidy Stone	Floral Park-Bellerose	John Lewis Childs PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Zachary Johnson	Spackenkill	Spackenkill PTA	Taconic
Middle/Junior	Amanda Welk	Bellmore-Merrick CHSD	Merrick Ave MS PTA	Nassau
Senior	Matthew Greenberg	Syosset	Syosset HS PTSA	Nassau

AWARD OF MERIT (State Winners – to be displayed at Convention)

Primary	Stella Fava	Harborfields	Washington Dr PTA	Suffolk
Primary	Isabella Stephens	New Hartford	E.R. Hughes PTA	Leatherstocking
Primary	Daniel Cleveland	Grand Island	Wm Kaegebein Elem	Niagara
Primary	Abigail Winans	Endicott	West Corners Campus	Southeastern
Intermediate	Sophie Meyer	Ballston Spa CSD	Milton Terrace PTA	Northeastern
Intermediate	Thanae Stoupas	Oceanside	Oaks School #3 PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Kyle Donohue	Massapequa Park	McKenna PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Paul Mattaway	Bardonia	Bardonia Elem	Central Hudson
Middle/Junior	Emily Shipley	Bellmore-Merrick CHSD	Grand Avenue MS PTSA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Melanie Chen	Shenendehowa CSD	Acadia PTA	Northeastern
Middle/Junior	Samantha Bohling	Shenendehowa CSD	Gowana PTA	Northeastern
Middle/Junior	Joseph Leone	Sewanhaka CHSD	Floral Park Memorial HS PTSA	Nassau
Senior	Samantha Cruz	Hauppauge	Hauppauge HS PTSA	Suffolk
Senior	Michael Raj	Oceanside	Oceanside HS PTA	Nassau
Senior	Kyle Miller	Long Beach	Long Beach HS PTSA	Nassau
Senior	Michelle Purpura	Oceanside	Oceanside HS PTA	Nassau



2010-2011 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM WINNERS

"Together We Can..."

LITERATURE

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (State Winners – go on to National PTA)

Primary	Erin Mullaney	Poughquag	Beekman Elementary	Taconic
Intermediate	Julianna Brogan	North Bellmore	Jacob Gunther PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Julia Losner	Merrick	Old Mill Road PTA	Nassau
Senior	Elissa Sancı	Sewanhaka CHSD	Sewanhaka HS PTSA	Nassau

AWARD OF MERIT (State Winners – to be displayed at Convention)

Primary	Emma Ortiz	Hauppauge	Bretton Woods Elem.	Suffolk
Primary	Alexa Hershaft	Armonk	Byram Hills PTSA	Westchester-East Putnam
Primary	Denali Rodriguez-Garnica	Moriah Central School	Moriah C.S. PTA	North Country
Primary	Rachel Goldberg	Farmingdale	Albany Avenue PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Parker Chang	Hicksville	East Street PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Andrew VanCamp	Briarcliff	Briarcliff PTA	Westchester-East Putnam
Intermediate	Valerie Kong	Syosset	Village PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Katelyn Murphy	Hawthorne	Mt. Pleasant Elementary	Westchester-East Putnam
Middle/Junior	Jacob Block	Ballston Spa CSD	Ballston Spa Middle School	Northeastern
Middle/Junior	Lauren VanWagoner	New Hartford	Ralph Perry Jr HS PTA	Leatherstocking
Middle/Junior	Zuna Anwar	Spackenkill	Spackenkill	Taconic
Middle/Junior	Hannah Weppner	Williamsville	Transit Middle School	Western
Senior	Andrew Peterson	Garden City	Garden City PTA	Nassau
Senior	Michelle Vick	Penfield	Penfield High School PTSA	Genesee Valley
Senior	Sage Higgins	Marlboro	Marlboro Central HS	Taconic
Senior	Michelle Savino	Island Trees	Island Trees PTSA	Nassau

MUSICAL COMPOSITION

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (State Winners – go on to National PTA)

Primary	Alanis Navas	Floral Park-Bellerose	John Lewis Childs School PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Deja Williams	Sweet Home	Heritage Heights PTA	Western
Middle/Junior	Julia Wunder	LaGrangeville	LaGrange Middle School	Taconic
Senior	Dana Glick	Rockville Centre	South Side High School PTA	Nassau

AWARD OF MERIT (State Winners – to be displayed at Convention)

Primary	Sebastian Martinez	Glen Cove	K.A. Deasy PTA	Nassau
Primary	Allison Li	Williamsville	Maple East Elem PTA	Western
Primary	Cassandra Bray	Farmingdale	Northside PTA	Nassau
Primary	Adam Beiter	Hamburg	Hamburg Central PTSA	Western
Intermediate	Aileen Park	Syosset	South Grove PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Samantha Gioia	Franklin Square	Washington Street PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Gillian Murphy	Massapequa	East Lake PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Louis Schriver	Sweet Home	Heritage Heights PTA	Western
Middle/Junior	Julia Losner	Merrick	Old Mill Road PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Sam Miller	Merrick	Levy-Lakeside PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Charlie Lublin	Oyster Bay	Oyster Bay-East Norwich PTSA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Jessica Mason	Briarcliff	Briarcliff PTA	Westchester-East Putnam
Senior	Alana DeGregorio	Bellmore-Merrick CHSD	W.C. Mephram HS PTA	Nassau
Senior	Dylan Seeger	Rockville Centre	South Side High School PTA	Nassau
Senior	Gregory Almeida	East Meadow	W.T. Clarke PTSA	Nassau
Senior	Nathaniel Martorano	Briarcliff Manor	Briarcliff PTA	Westchester-East Putnam



2010-2011 REFLECTIONS PROGRAM WINNERS

"Together We Can..."

PHOTOGRAPHY

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (State Winners – go on to National PTA)

Primary	Dylan Hutt	New City	Laurel Plains PTA	Central Hudson
Intermediate	Brianna Sorice	West Islip	Paul E Kirdahy PTA	Suffolk
Middle/Junior	Jakob Roth	Scotia-Glenville CSD	Scotia-Glenville MS	Northeastern
Senior	Grace Clark	Corning	Corning East High PTSA	South Central

AWARD OF MERIT (State Winners – to be displayed at Convention)

Primary	Kendal Scanlon	New Hartford	E.R. Hughes PTA	Leatherstocking
Primary	Cassidy Stone	Floral Park-Bellerose	John Lewis Childs PTA	Nassau
Primary	Keith Cameron	Long Beach	West PTA	Nassau
Primary	Yadukrishna Kurup	Williamsville	Dodge Elem School PTA	Western
Intermediate	Victoria Walters	New Hartford	E.R. Hughes PTA	Leatherstocking
Intermediate	Sara Cerenzia	North Merrick	Camp Avenue PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Lauren Lammers	Baldwinsville	Harry E Elden PTA	Central
Intermediate	Stephanie Burkhammer	Shenendehowa CSD	Karigon Elementary	Northeastern
Middle/Junior	James Michielini	Garden City	Garden City PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	George Stack	Ballston Spa CSD	Ballston Spa Middle School	Northeastern
Middle/Junior	Grace Lee-Niosi	Briarcliff Manor	Briarcliff PTA	Westchester- East Putnam
Middle/Junior	Blake Elwood	Briarcliff Manor	Briarcliff PTA	Westchester-East Putnam
Senior	Lauren-Ashley Daley	Suffern	Ramapo HS PTSA	Central Hudson
Senior	David Lloyd	New Hartford	New Hartford Sr HS	Leatherstocking
Senior	Emily Henderson	Walworth	Gananda Central School	Genesee Valley
Senior	Carly Tumen	Syosset	Syosset High School PTSA	Nassau

VISUAL ARTS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE (State Winners – go on to National PTA)

Primary	Jesse Browde	West Nyack	Strawtown Elem PTA	Central Hudson
Intermediate	Ester Ahn	Syosset	Robbins Lane PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Gaayathri Varavenkataraman	Williamsville	Transit Middle School	Western
Senior	Alfredo Esposito	Levittown	Division Avenue HS PTSA	Nassau

AWARD OF MERIT (State Winners – to be displayed at Convention)

Primary	Maggie Keys	Harborfields	Washington Dr PTA	Suffolk
Primary	Millicent Dawes	Clinton	Clinton Central School	Leatherstocking
Primary	Madison Schneider	Merrick	Birch PTA	Nassau
Primary	Anwaag Kumar	Williamsville	Heim Middle School PTSA	Western
Intermediate	Sarah Astegher	South Huntington	Birchwood Intermediate PTA	Suffolk
Intermediate	Christopher Pang	Syosset	J. Irving Baylis PTA	Nassau
Intermediate	Max Maslow	Goldens Bridge	Increase Miller Elem	Westchester-East Putnam
Intermediate	Janae Glover	Sweet Home	Maplemere PTA	Western
Middle/Junior	Sabrina Rothschild	Blauvelt	South Orangetown MS	Central Hudson
Middle/Junior	Lian Chisholm	Blauvelt	South Orangetown MS	Central Hudson
Middle/Junior	Kyle Kutner	Rockville Centre	South Side MS PTA	Nassau
Middle/Junior	Gabriel Furman	LaGrangeville	LaGrange Middle School	Taconic
Senior	Sarah Omer	Spring Valley	Spring Valley HS PTSA	Central Hudson
Senior	Katelyn Meyer	Bellmore-Merrick CHSD	W.C. Mephram HS PTA	Nassau
Senior	Paul Friedman	Lincolndale	Somers High School PTSA	Westchester-East Putnam
Senior	Mikhail Klimentov	Lincolndale	Somers High School PTSA	Westchester-East Putnam

NYS PTA Region Directors

Who are they and what do they do?

By: *Kathy Dowling, NYS PTA Vice President*



As Coordinator of Region Directors, I have the honor and privilege of working with some of the most dedicated PTA volunteers in NYS PTA. We often receive phone calls and emails from our members seeking answers to their many inquiries. We always refer these inquiries back to the Region Directors as they know their units and councils well and are best equipped to respond. They work with their region board members to reach out to their units and councils to assist, advise and guide them well.

I put together a few frequently asked questions so that you have a better understanding of how our regions work.

What is a Region PTA and why is it important to me as a PTA member?

NYS PTA is divided into 16 regional, administrative “arms” to provide advice, leadership training and assistance to the units, councils and PTA members in the region's area. Each Region PTA has a Director, an Executive Committee of elected officers, and a board consisting of the Executive Committee and Director, Chairmen, Assistant Directors and Consultants or Assignees. Please visit the NYS PTA website (www.nyspta.org) to access the contact information area of the site to determine who is assigned to your region.

What is the Role of the Region Director?

A Region Director is the chief administrator of the PTA and is a member of the NYS PTA Board of Directors. She/he is the person in charge of a geographical division of the state, responsible for interpreting and extending the PTA program and for developing PTA leadership in that area. Remember the word DIRECTOR. A Director does not do it; a Director MAKES it happen.

What are some of the services provided by Regions?

- Counseling and encouraging PTA leaders in the region
- Leadership guidance for both unit and council leaders, with emphasis on planning, staffing, promoting and conducting Schools of Instruction
- Visits to local PTA units, including meetings with the local unit's executive committee
- Region conferences and workshops to meet the needs of our units/councils
- Reflections Programs and Receptions to highlight students in Literature, Music, Dance Choreography, Video, Visual Arts, Photography and Film Production
- Parents as Reading Partners (PARP) Program to encourage reading and literacy
- Region websites and e-blasts to keep all the units and councils well informed
- Respond to inquires from units/councils
- Assist units by disseminating information that is important or valuable for them to have

- Work closely with State Membership and Bylaws Coordinators to insure that units are in good standing
- Supervise the organization of new units & councils
- Reactivation of inactive PTAs
- Outreach – to non-PTAs

As Coordinator of our NYS PTA Region Directors, I am extremely proud to share some highlights from some of our regions this past year:

Central Region:

- Central Region is the “Heart of New York State”. Our “PTA Family” continues to grow in the number of units; they will be chartering their fourth Special Education PTSA next week. This makes four in the last two years. They may be small but are making a big difference!

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SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

July 29-July 31, 2011
Utica College, Utica, NY

Registration Fee Schedule:	
Registration Type and Deadline	Cost per Member
Full Conference: Registration Postmarked by June 25, 2011	\$245
Day Delegate – Full Conference: Registration Postmarked by June 25, 2011	\$175
Day Delegate – Saturday: Registration Postmarked by June 25, 2011	\$120
Day Delegate – Sunday: Registration Postmarked by June 25, 2011	\$100
Full Conference: Registration Postmarked on or after June 26, 2011	\$275
Day Delegate – Full Conference: Registration Postmarked on or after June 26, 2011	\$200
Day Delegate – Saturday: Registration Postmarked on or after June 26, 2011	\$145
Day Delegate – Sunday: Registration Postmarked on or after June 26, 2011	\$125

Celebrate!
Making a Difference Together

New York State
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®

Youth Humanitarian Award in Memory of Stanley Marcus

By Jacqueline Wilson, NYS PTA Awards Chair

The Youth Humanitarian Award in Memory of Stanley Marcus is presented to high school junior or senior students who best exemplify the humanitarian principles of Stanley Marcus who died in 1977 while serving as third vice president of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers. He will always be remembered for his humanitarianism and dedication to youth through zealous volunteer community service.

Since PTA is a volunteer organization, we believe it is only fitting that we should honor such service by our young people through the sponsorship of this award.

We are pleased to announce that this year's State Award has been given to **Corinne Calabretta of Williamsville East High School, Western Region.**

Corinne had an impressive list of volunteer activities in her application. Her community service is based on genuine care and empathy for others. Her work with SABAH, Skating Athletes Bold at Heart, working with students with disabilities has helped her to make a difference in the lives of young people who otherwise might never be able to experience the joy of skating. She also works with the PRIDE organization at her school and in her essay states, "I openly challenge any person who believes that someone with a disability is not as intelligent as someone without one. I was born into a fortunate lifestyle and do not need to struggle to maintain food or shelter. Through my experiences with different community service activities, I have seen and felt the struggle that so many face each day; I have come to respect those who face great intensities of adversity and have drawn an inner strength to overcome that adversity they face." It is evident that her work has been a labor of love and a learning experience that has touched her life in a way she will never forget.

Congratulations also to our Region Winners:

Westchester-East Putnam – Brittany Sutton - White Plains HS

Mohawk Valley – Mike Downing - Fonda-Fultonville HS

Genesee Valley – Jennifer Sutliff - Eastridge HS

Southeastern – Laura Nielsen - Maine-Endwell HS

North Country – Monique Jenkinson - Parishville-Hopkinton HS

Leatherstocking – Danielle McHarris - Clinton Central HS

Taconic – Kevin Ackerman - Franklin D. Roosevelt HS

Nassau – Kelly Ejnes - West Hempstead HS

Central – Morgan Christiansen - Cazenovia HS

Suffolk – Hassina Naeemi - Walt Whitman HS

Niagara – Andrew Ames - Newfane HS

Central Hudson – Kylie Morris - Warwick Valley HS

LEADERSHIP AWARD IN HONOR OF JANE SKRZYPEK

Last year, *Diana Loiacono* of Bennett Elementary PTA was named the **Jane Skrzypek Volunteer for NYS PTA.**

Do you have an outstanding volunteer in your PTA unit? Refer to your NYS PTA Resource Guide or www.nyspta.org for full details on how to nominate your outstanding volunteer for this award!

Each winner at the Region PTA level is recognized. Region winners are submitted to NYS PTA for the state-wide award.

**Nominations are due by
June 15**

New York State
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Taking Your Membership Over the Finish Line

By Jeanette Meoli, NYS PTA Membership Chair



What a wonderful year we have had in membership! So many of you worked so diligently to have many more people “add their voices” this year, and it really showed throughout

the state. Take a few moments and congratulate your membership committees on a job well done. Here are a few housekeeping items that will help you wrap up the work of your committee for the 2010-2011 school year and get you all set to hit the ground running for 2011-2012:

- If you applied for membership awards, or were eligible for any of the automatic membership awards, they are usually presented at your region's Spring Conference, so remember to register with your region for that event.

- Prepare a final membership report for your board, final PTA meeting and newsletter.
- Evaluate this year's program and membership drive and make recommendations for next year.
- Bring your records up-to-date for your successor. Clear up any issues that remain so that your unit can start with a clean slate next year.
- Send a brief thank you note to those who helped with membership – they'll be more likely to help again next year if they feel appreciated.
- Remind your unit Secretary to register the name and address of your newly-elected President on Form A on the NYS PTA Website, www.nyspta.org. Membership cards can only be sent to your unit next year if Form A with your President's data has been submitted. (Note: Ongoing Presidents who are re-elected are also required to resubmit their information on Form A for the new term.)

- All dues should already be submitted to New York State PTA and all extra cards should already be returned to your Region Membership Chair. If your unit has not done that, please contact your region director for guidance, because, once again, no membership cards can be sent out next year if there are outstanding issues from this year.

Reminder: Everyone that runs for office, or votes in your election, must have a valid membership card. We sell membership throughout the entire year, so if you need any cards please contact your Region Membership Chair.

Thank you all for a job well done!



Treasurer's Corner

By Janet Meyerson, NYS PTA Treasurer



What to do if you receive a notice from the Internal Revenue Service

If you receive a notice from the Internal Revenue Service do not ignore it!!!! Failure to respond to a notice from the IRS can result in penalties and interest being assessed as well as having your PTA bank accounts seized by the IRS. Don't let this happen to your PTA unit. Please immediately contact your Region Director for assistance.

Important Tax Filing Information for Regions, Councils and Units

All PTAs are required to file IRS Form 990 on an annual basis. Failure to file a complete and timely tax return will result in penalties and interest being assessed by the Internal Revenue Service. In addition, failure to file will result in the revocation of your PTA's federal tax exempt status. The chart below provides you with the IRS requirements for filing for the 2010 tax year. **Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 due no later than November 15, 2011.**

Gross Receipts	Form to File
Normally less than \$50,000	990-N
Less than \$200,000	990EZ or 990
Greater than \$200,000	990

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at treasurer@nyspta.org.

Kick Back, Relax, Learn

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write and draw on the driveway. These activities can help children improve their fine motor skills, lengthen their attention span, and teach them skills that they can use to calm themselves down.

But don't forget that while you are having all this fun, be sure that you take some time to begin to organize your IEPs, etc. and documentation for the new school year.

Just remember that all children, including those with special needs, need time to just be a kid and relax and play. Be sure to spend time with them and celebrate them for the unique and special people that they are. While you are doing all this be sure to have that extra ice cream cone and jump in one more puddle because it will be September before you know it.

Region Directors

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Central Hudson Region:

- Central Hudson Region PTA had their annual Leg/Ed Breakfast on March 12, 2011. Sixty people attended including five legislators. This was double the amount of attendees from the last couple of years. Council Presidents were called upon to make sure their units sent high school students to the event. Associate Directors/Assistant Directors followed up with phone calls/emails. This new action design helped to make this event so very successful! It does pay to investigate alternative ideas for annual functions. That's for sure!

Suffolk Region:

- Suffolk region encompasses districts covering all socio-economic groups and a very diverse population.
- We consistently attempt to reach out to all segments of our population by bringing leadership training and relevant programs to our membership. Suffolk by the Sea generally has 300 attendees with an average of 30 workshops offered over four sessions.
- Suffolk welcomes a new unit into our Association, Bay Shore SEPTA, we look forward to working with all their members! In addition, we have created a new scholarship in memory of past Region Director and NYS First VP Danielle Alduino.

Leatherstocking Region:

- Was the first region in the state to top last year's membership total and to reach our membership goal set by the state. All 16 of our units received the Early Bird Award, nine units received the Founder's Day Award and 10 of our units sold more than 100% of last years total membership. Our membership is up by 242 members from last year.

Nassau Region:

- The Nassau Region PTA Annual Legislation Brunch was held on March 26, 2011, at the Hofstra University Club, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY. Nassau Region PTA Director, Judy Van Haaren, gave the welcome address and NYS PTA President, Maria Fletcher, extended greetings from

NYS PTA to over one hundred attendees. They were joined by many NYS and Nassau County Legislators and their representatives, Nassau and Suffolk School Board members and PTA members from across Nassau County. The keynote speaker, Roger B. Tilles, member of the Board of Regents, NYSED, spoke of the direction the Board of Regents is heading in our current education climate. In addition, they were fortunate to have United States Representative Carolyn McCarthy address the attendees. Claudia Borrecky, representative for Nassau County Legislator David Dennenberg, presented Nassau Region PTA with a citation. A panel of NYS Legislators, including Assemblyman David McDonough, Assemblyman Charles Lavine, Assemblyman Tom McKeivitt, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Assemblyman Brian Curran and Assemblyman Edward Ra graciously answered all of the questions from the audience. Overall, the Nassau Region Legislation Brunch was informative and timely for the challenges that our educational system is currently facing.

Niagara Region:

- Niagara Region PTA has organized an anti-bullying task force consisting of representatives from a number of the school district PTAs, a student, parent, principal and a number of dedicated region board members. They plan on coming up with a "toolkit" to help school districts take a proactive approach to the "Dignity for All Students" legislation taking effect July 2012. Their timeline is set so that by Fall 2011, they will be visiting PTAs and Boards of Education with their tools for use should they have the need. They are looking for business partners to help fund the initiative.

Westchester-East Putnam Region:

- WEPR's Advocacy Breakfast showed that they are a force to be reckoned with. It was well attended by legislators and PTA members.
- WEPR was highlighted in an enormous article in the *Journal News*. Headline was "Not Your Mother's PTA" and was about PTA parents fighting budgets, talking to politicians, discussing legislation.

- They held a WEPR PTA logo contest and the winner will be announced soon. The artwork will be on their new region banner and letterhead and will be unveiled at their Spring Conference.

Western Region:

- Western Region PTA is made up of 65 units and four councils, with 13,991 members. We are an urban, suburban and rural region that includes the city of Buffalo.
- Our website (westernregionpta.org) is newly revamped. Our newsletter, "The Beacon," is published four times a year and is available on our website.
- Western Region PTA has a very successful Founders Day Celebration with our first "Members Night Out." Members gathered at a banquet room in a local restaurant to network, eat and celebrate PTA.

North Country Region:

- North Country Region sponsored a Presidents and Principals Dinner at BOCES Seaway Area Tech Center on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 with guest speaker David Rothfuss, Assistant in Educational Services for NYSUT, who gave a presentation on "NYS Graduation Requirements: Why Change and What's Under Consideration?"

As you can see, our regions have done phenomenal work this past year and I thank every Region Director and their board members for being tireless advocates for children and youth. Please know that our Region Directors are here to meet the needs of your units and councils with the many workshops and conferences they offer and are but a phone call or email away, so do not hesitate to reach out to them for support and guidance.

Before you know it, we all will be making those "To Do Lists" for our Back-to-School meetings in September, so take some time over the summer to relax and enjoy your families!

NEW YORK STATE PTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc.
One Wembley Court Albany, NY 12205-3830
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Toll Free: 1-877-569-7782
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Region Directors:

Central: Caroline Horzempa
Central Hudson: Merle Payne
Suffolk: Doris Fischer
Leatherstocking: Donna Imobersteg
Genesee Valley: Gail Gligora
Mohawk Valley: Marge Ugalde
Nassau: Judy Van Haaren
Niagara: MaryBeth Carroll
Northeastern: Penny Hollister
South Central: Denise Reppert
Southeastern: Tina Zdimal
Southwestern: Michelle Waterman
Taconic: Nancy Hulton
Westchester-East Putnam: Kelly Chiarella
Western: Kelly Stephenson
North Country: Ellen Galo

Presidential Assignees:

JoAnn Incalcaterra – Financial Support / Annual Giving
Gene Kinney – Internal Data Library / NPTA OMDR

Chairmen:

Awards: Jacqueline Wilson
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Health and Wellness: Diane Campbell
Legislation: Susan Pedo
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Parents as Reading Partners: Helen Hoffman
Resolutions: Jane Harsha
Special Education: Joyce Cattani
Technology Communications: Gracemarie Rozea

National PTA Board Member:

Vito Borrello – President, EPIC - Every Person Influences Children

Youth Member:

Angela Johanning

Executive Committee:

President: Maria Fletcher (2010-2012)
First Vice President: Lana Ajemian (2010-2012)
Vice President: Kathy Dowling (2009-2011)
Vice President: Alvin Benson (2009-2011)
Vice President: Bonnie Russell (2009-2011)
Vice President: Pat Hysert (2010-2012)
Vice President: Cathy Romano (2010-2012)
Secretary: Penny Hollister(2010-2012)
Treasurer: Janet Meyerson (2009-2011)

Immediate Past President:

Susan Lipman

Consultants:

Janet Ahola – Education Conference Board
Richard Ahola – Professional Standards and Practices Board
Susan Berkow – Document Integrity Support
Maria DeWald – Partnership Support
Stephanie Fehr – Special Meetings Liaison
Mike Meehan – Male Involvement Initiative
Sue Rau – Rural Schools
Pam Schmitt – Resource Guide
Penny Whiting – Rural Schools

Bylaws

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website). Do not make additional copies for distribution until the state approved copies have been received. Bylaws become effective on the date of approval by the State Bylaws Chairman.

• **What happens if the information regarding the unit and/or council name, address, National PTA code, Federal ID Number and/or New York State Tax Exempt Number(s) are incorrect?** When you send your signed cover page to the Region Bylaws Chair, please include a note with it and they will send it to the appropriate person to be verified and entered into our database.

• **When we send the signed cover sheet to the Region Bylaws Chair, what happens next?** The Region Bylaws Chair will review the bylaws and forward them to the State Bylaws Chairman. Any questions or issues will be addressed during this process before state approval is given. Two (2) copies of the approved bylaws, with the State Bylaws Chairman's signature, and a copy of the approved bylaws in pdf format will be sent to the unit or council by the Region Bylaws Chair or Region Director. These are your official copies and are to be placed in the president's and secretary's books.

• **Who can get copies of the bylaws?** Units can make additional paper or electronic copies for members as appropriate and may place a copy on file in the school office and/or library. Councils should provide a set of approved bylaws to each member unit. Now it is so easy to do this electronically!

• **When can bylaws be reviewed?** They can be reviewed at any time and resubmitted. However, every three years they must be sent, whether revised or not, 90 days prior to date of expiration to the Region Bylaws Chair or, in the Chair's absence, to the Region Director.

We recommend that you have Unit/Council Procedures that will contain what you do in greater detail than in your bylaws. There are sample Procedures in the Members Only section of the NYS PTA website and you can customize them to meet the needs of your unit or council.

Any questions? Contact your Region Bylaws Chair or email us at bylaws@nyspta.org and we look forward to helping you transition to **Bylaws EZ!**

SAVE THE DATE

2011 NYS PTA Convention November 11-13, 2011

Sheraton at the Falls Hotel
Conference Center Niagara Falls
Niagara Falls, NY



REGISTRATION FEE SCHEDULE:		
Full Conference (includes Hotel, Meals and Convention fees)		
	Fee if Postmarked by 10/5/11	Fee if Postmarked after 10/5/11
PTA Member – Single	\$575	\$600
PTA Member – Double	\$465	\$490
PTA Member – Triple	\$435	\$460
PTA Member – Quad	\$415	\$440
Non-PTA Member – Double	\$600	\$625
Student – Double	\$400	\$425
Convention Fees Non-Hotel Registrants/Full Conference (includes Meals and Convention fees)		
PTA Member	\$300	
Non-PTA Member	\$460	
Student (21 years of age and under)	\$210	
One Day Delegate Registration (Saturday or Sunday) (Convention fees only; Meals available at additional cost)		
PTA Member	\$85	
Non-PTA Member	\$165	
Student (21 years of age and under)	\$40	

IMPORTANT: If you anticipate crossing over the border into Canada during your stay, it is IMPERATIVE that you have an enhanced NYS driver's license or passport to get back over the bridge. Information regarding an enhanced driver's license can be found at: <http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/edl-main.htm>.

The Dept. of State also offers The U.S. Passport Card which can be used to enter the United States from Canada and is more convenient and less expensive than a passport book. **(The passport card cannot be used for international travel by air).** More information can be found at: http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/ppt_card/ppt_card_3926.html.



Periodical Postage Paid at Albany, NY

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND OBSERVANCES 2011

May

Asian/Pacific Heritage Month

National Bike Month

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month

- 1-7 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 3 National Teacher Day
- 9-15 Children's Book Week
- 13 National Convention Registration Dead-
line
- 24 National Missing Children's Day
- 30 Memorial Day – PTA offices Closed

June

- 1 Insurance Payments Due in NYS PTA
Office
- 9-12 National Convention in Orlando, Florida
- 15 PARP Award Application due to Region
Directors
- 15 Annual Officers' Contact Information
(Form A) due to Region Directors
- 15 Leadership Award in Honor of Jane
Skrzypek – Application Deadline
- 21 Teacher Fellowship in Memory of
Richard Gazzola – Applications Post-
marked to State Office