

fast **FACTS**

New York State PTA

October 2011

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New York State
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Calendar:

October

- 10 NYS PTA Office Closed in observance of Columbus Day
- 20 State deadline for Reflections theme submission to National PTA
- 20 Early Bird Membership payments due to state office

November

- 11-13 NYS PTA Annual Convention, Niagara Falls, NY

Summit IV Update

By Robert Aloise, Family Engagement Coordinator

Summit IV, the last in a series of Summit Conferences, was held in Albany on September 21. This Summit is the result of an ongoing partnership between EPIC/PIRC, NYS PTA and Cornell Cooperative Extension PIRC. In attendance were NYS PTA President, Dr. Maria Fletcher, NYS PTA First Vice President, Lana Ajemian, NYS PTA Vice President, Catherine Romano, NYS PTA Executive Administrator, Rick Longhurst, NYS PTA Family Engagement Coordinator, Bob Aloise, NYS PTA Consultant for Partnership Support, Maria DeWald and other members of our organization. As part of this conference, Dr. Aloise presented the state of Family Engagement initiatives in New York State, including Commissioner's Regulations and pertinent state and federal legislation. He also facilitated two 'table top' discussions around the topic "using data and Family Engagement to improve student achievement".

Regent Bennett addressed the Conference in a specially taped video presentation on the topic "Family Engagement in New York State". From his remarks, one could see immediately how very important the issue of Family Engagement is to him. Deputy Commissioner Kenneth Slentz attended the Conference as well, speaking about the disparity in graduation rates and general achievement among different ethnic groups, emphasizing that we should all be distressed by these data. He stated that the time is *now* to include Family Engagement in our efforts to improve this dire situation for all children in New York State.

We are very hopeful that several members of EPIC/PIRC, NYS PTA and Cornell Cooperative Extension PIRC will testify before the Regents this fall to discuss two Family Engagement proposals the Summit Team has recommended to the NYS Board of Regents. These proposals include adoption of the National PTA Family-School Partnership Standards and Assessment as well as inclusion of Family Engagement in pre- and in-service for teachers and administrators.

The concept of the Summit Team has now been disbanded and a new structure is taking shape. A Planning Committee is now in place, with NYS PTA presence, that will oversee the Summit Team's evolution into three bodies: an overall Coalition, with members of all organizations involved, a Management Team to oversee organization of meetings, conferences, etc. and a Steering Committee charged with setting policy and therefore, overall direction for our work.



**Online
Registration
for the
NYS PTA
115th Annual
Convention is
open until
October 5, 2011.**

**Visit
www.nyspta.org
for registration
and Convention
information**

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Membership Update

By Jeanette Meoli, Membership/Marketing Coordinator

Your membership campaign should be in full swing by now – it's time to make that first dues payment to New York State! Dues are now \$4.00 per member, and checks (with two signatures!) should be mailed to NYS PTA, One Wembley Court, Albany, NY 12205, along with a dues payment form (if you can't find the one from your August membership mailing packet you can download one at: www.nyspta.org/pdfs/membership/NYS%20PTA%20Dues%20Payment%20Form.pdf). If your check arrives by October 20, your unit will qualify for the Early Bird Award, and will automatically be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate for the NYS PTA Store.

Try to find at least one new place to set up a membership information table – how about at football or soccer games? And remember, anyone can join PTA – we love dads, grandparents and community members, too! For additional recruitment resources, visit the National PTA website at: pta.org/pta_marketing_resources.asp.

Jenkins Memorial Scholarship Applications

By Laurie May, Awards Specialist

The 2011-2012 Jenkins Memorial Scholarship application is now available on the NYS PTA website at: www.nyspta.org/awards/jenkins.cfm. Notification of availability has been sent to high school unit presidents and guidance counselors in public high schools that have a PTA/PTSA unit in good standing. PTA presidents are required to sign submitted applications indicating that they are a unit in good standing.

PTA presidents should check with their high school guidance counselors to remind them about making this scholarship application available to eligible seniors who plan on pursuing a degree in education and will be attending a State of New York (SUNY) college or a community college with the intent of transferring to a baccalaureate degree program in a SUNY college. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Laurie May, NYS PTA Awards Specialist, at awards@nyspta.org.

NYS PTA Convention Health Resolutions

By Susanne Smoller, Health Specialist

This year, there are five health-related resolutions being presented for retention and update. When presenting your resolutions to your unit for a vote, it is helpful to be informed on the issues to support your presentation, in case members have questions. Following is a list of websites you can access to support your position:

Retention #7: Healthy School Foods

- National PTA: www.pta.org/documents/FactSheet_Healthy_Hunger-Free_Kids_Act.pdf

wwwWhat's Happening at nyspta.org

This website is maintained and updated almost daily. Be sure to check it often for new, up-to-date information.

Information Box: (Table of Contents)

Contains detailed information that define the NYS PTA and our website.

News Headlines:

- Now Available...Online Convention Registration
- Reflections 2011-2012 - Diversity Means
- Membership Cards Have Been Mailed
- Information about National PTA Dues

News Briefs:

- The Family Engagement in Education Act of 2011
- NYS PTA Guidance on PTA and School Budgets in Difficult Financial Times

Members Only: (A work in progress)

Use the username and password from your Membership Card for access to this section

- Brochures
- Bylaws Patterns, Instructions and Sample Procedures
- Guide to PTA Terms, Punctuation and Abbreviations
- NYS PTA Bylaws
- The NYS PTA Resource Guide
- *New York Parent Teacher* periodical
- Summer Leadership Conference '10 Workshop Materials

Quicklinks: (One click access)

- Sign Up for Capwiz
- Take Action with Capwiz
- Virtual Exhibit Hall
- Sponsorship Opportunities
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Bylaws EZ
- Annual (Form A) Unit/Council Updates

Health (contd from p. 2)

- NYS PTA: www.nyspta.org/pdfs/advocacy/Position%20Paper%20healthy%20lifestyles%20FINAL%202-5-2010.pdf
- US Department of Agriculture: www.fns.usda.gov/TN/Healthy/108-265.pdf

Retention #8: Head Injuries

- Centers for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury/index.html

Retention #11: CPR/AED and First Aid

- NYS Education Department: www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/schoolhealth/schoolhealthservices/Article19Sections.html#917
- NYS Public High School Athletic Association: www.nysphsaa.org/safety/aed.asp

Retention #12: Rapid Weight Loss Diets

- American College of Sports Medicine: www.acsm.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home_Page&CONTENTID=1272&TEMPLATE=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm

Update #1: Movies' Influence on Tobacco Use

- National Cancer Institute: www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/2001/tobacomovies

Elections and Voting 2011

New York State PTA Bylaws Article XVI

Each local PTA in good standing as of September 1, 2011, shall be entitled to be represented at the Annual Convention by its president or alternate and one (1) delegate. Local PTAs with a membership of over one hundred (100) shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for each additional one hundred (100) members or a major fraction thereof as shown on the books of the New York State PTA as of March 31, 2011. Each council in good standing as of September 1, 2011, shall be entitled to be represented by its president or alternate. Each Region PTA shall be entitled to be represented at the annual convention by its region director or alternate. Each region shall be entitled to six (6) additional voting delegates who shall be region board members. The selection of these six (6) delegates shall be governed by the region accrediting such delegates.

New York State PTA Bylaws Article VIII

The nominating committee shall present its report at the next convention. Additional nominations may be made from the floor provided the written consent of the nominee has been secured. A copy of the qualifications of any candidate to be nominated from the floor must be received by the chair of the

Elections (contd on p. 4)

nominating committee fourteen (14) business days prior to the opening of the convention.

** Please send a copy of the qualifications of any candidate to be nominated from the floor to the state office:

NYS PTA
One Wembley Court
Albany, NY 12205-3830

Att: Janet Meyerson, Nominating Committee Chair

ARTICLE VIII-Officers: Elections and Vacancies
(as it pertains to eligibility for office)

Section 6. To be eligible for an elective office in the New York State PTA a person shall have served at least two (2) years on the Board of Directors of the New York State PTA.

#Section 8. No person under the age of 18 years shall be eligible to serve in the office of president, recording secretary, or treasurer.

Election of NYS PTA Officers

Voting delegates participate in the election of the leadership of our state PTA. All candidates must be formally nominated at Convention either by the Nominating Committee or from the floor. This year the Nominating Committee will present the following slate of officers:

Vice President – Al Benson
Vice President – Janet Meyerson
Treasurer – Neil Johanning

**New York State PTA Bylaws Proposed
Amendment for Convention 2011**

By David Steggles, Bylaws Coordinator

With this year's NYS PTA Annual Convention approaching rapidly, it is time to inform you of a change in the bylaws of NYS PTA that will be proposed at Convention.

As you may be aware, many changes in the structure and operation of NYS PTA were put in place at last year's Convention, including a smaller Board of Directors. As a result of these changes and a complete review of the NYS PTA bylaws, it became apparent that a change was necessary to these bylaws.

ARTICLE XXI- Amendments

Section 3. The Executive Committee or the Board of Directors, by a majority vote, may authorize the

Bylaws Committee to submit for approval by the delegates at the next convention, a revised set of bylaws as a substitute for the existing bylaws.

The change concerns the eligibility of members of the Board of Directors to serve on the Nominating Committee of NYS PTA.

Currently, Article VIII-Officers: Elections and Vacancies, Section 10. Nomination Committee paragraph c. reads:

"Having once served on a nominating committee, members of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible to serve on the next succeeding committee. Members of the Board of Directors, who are not members of the Executive Committee, shall not be eligible to serve on the **next three (3) succeeding committees.**"

After discussion at the Board of Directors meeting at Summer Leadership, the Board approved the proposed amendment below for adoption by the delegates at this year's Convention.

The proposed amendment reads:

"Having once served on a nominating committee, members of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible to serve on the next succeeding committee. Members of the Board of Directors, who are not members of the Executive Committee, shall not be eligible to serve on the next succeeding committee."

The rationale behind this change is that, as a smaller Board of Directors, the pool of potential members eligible to serve on the nominating committee in any given year is greatly diminished. This amendment would increase the potential pool of eligible board members.

If you have any questions, feel free to email David Steggles, NYS PTA Bylaws Coordinator, at bylaws@nyspta.org.

PTA Offers Two Grant Opportunities to Units

If your PTA is looking for new ways to fund programs, let leaders know that local PTAs can take advantage of two National PTA grant programs. The Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grants support arts programs and the PTA Take Your Family to School Week grants

Grants (contd from p. 4)

support family engagement programs. Both grant programs are now accepting applications.

Local PTAs can apply for up to \$1,000 in matching funds to support student-centered arts education programs. Units can apply at PTA.org/MLAgrant. The deadline is **Saturday, October 15**.

PTA Take Your Family to School Week grants can be used to build positive partnerships with teachers and families, connect parents to their children's school experiences, and give children fun ways to share what they are learning and doing in class with their families. Units can apply at PTA.org/familytoschool. The deadline for submissions is **Friday, October 28**.

PTA Take Your Family to School Week, February 12-18, 2012, is sponsored by the AXA Foundation, the philanthropic arm of AXA Equitable. The AXA Foundation is a Proud National Sponsor of National PTA.

Partnership Between National PTA and Family First

Former Buccaneers and Colts coach Tony Dungy and his wife, Lauren, announce a partnership between National PTA and Family First. In addition, the Dungys have been named National PTA Honorary Membership Chairs. National PTA, in conjunction with the Tampa-based nonprofit, Family First, are developing programs to increase parental involvement in education. The Dungys have been involved with Family First for 15 years with all of the organization's programs that include All Pro Dad and iMOM, which stress involvement in a child's education as an important component of responsible parenting.

"All Pro Dad and iMOM both have breakfast programs at 1,600 schools all over the country, where parents and children have a special time together on a monthly basis," says Tony Dungy. "I come from a family of educators and we know that

the more involved parents are in their children's lives, the more likely they are to succeed."

"Fortifying families to realize every child's potential is the theme of our partnership," says Betsy Landers, National PTA President. "We feel the natural extension of the breakfast chapters is to get more parents involved in the school through membership in the PTA, and other volunteer efforts."

ABOUT FAMILY FIRST: Family First is a national nonprofit organization based in Tampa, Florida. Family First reaches thousands of parents each day through its three primary programs: All Pro Dad, www.AllProDad.com; iMOM, www.iMOM.com; and the Family Minute with Mark Merrill, www.FamilyMinute.com.

PTA Advocacy: A Legacy in Leadership

Check Out the Latest Membership Tool from National PTA!

National PTA is proud to announce the release of the video *PTA Advocacy: A Legacy in Leadership*. Each PTA state/congress will receive one DVD copy of *PTA Advocacy: A Legacy in Leadership* by November 2011. In addition, the video has been uploaded to the [National PTA Public Policy Online Advocacy Toolkit](#) for PTA members to view and share! [View the video](#).



PTA Advocacy: A Legacy in Leadership can be used by state, council and local PTAs to educate and recruit potential PTA members, improve the advocacy capacity of current PTA members, and increase sponsorship dollars.

For more information on this new PTA advocacy history DVD, please contact Tiffany Knight, National PTA advocacy specialist at tknight@pta.org.



Don't forget to register to vote!

