

Please detach and return to:  
New York State PTA  
One Wembley Court  
Albany, NY 12205-3830

Unit Code: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name:

Acknowledgement letter sent to:

*Please Print*

Contact Name:

Address:

Phone:

Contribution Amount: \$

**Thank you for your  
contribution for  
Founders Day!**

**New York State**  
**PTA<sup>®</sup>**  
*everychild. one voice.<sup>®</sup>*

Programs  
& Awards

# Celebrate and Remember



Alice McLellan Birney



Phoebe Apperson Hearst



Selena Sloan Butler

# Founders Day February 17

## Purposes of PTA

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community, and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school, that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social, and spiritual education.

## Mission Statement

PTA is

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

New York State PTA  
One Wembley Court  
Albany, NY 12205-3830  
518-452-8808  
1-877-569-7782  
[www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org)

**New York State PTA**

## History of Founders Day

On February 17, 1897, the two founders, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst, looked out at the 2,000 people from across the country who gathered for the Mothers Congress' first meeting in Washington, DC, and saw the beginning of the largest (and now oldest) volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of children and youth.

In 1926, Selena Sloan Butler formed the Mothers Congress' counterpart. She was the founder and first president of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers (NCCPT).

After working 50 years apart, NCCPT and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers united in 1970 to expand their outreach. All three women—Selena Sloan Butler, Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst—believed in making everyone aware of children's needs and possibilities. *February 17 became known as Founders Day since it celebrated the founding of PTA.*

In January of 1930 during a national radio broadcast from Washington DC, Mary Grinnell Mears described the significance of Founders Day in the life of the PTA: "This annual celebration should give local parent-teacher associations a closer touch with the national organization. It should impart information regarding the beginning of the organization and the high ideals of the founders and their associates. The purposes, needs, and achievements of the National (Congress) should be clearly presented with its recognized value to child welfare. Emphasis should be laid on its importance in the educational, religious, philanthropic, and social life of the country."

## Celebrate Founders Day

- Display pictures and memorabilia describing PTA's more than 100-year history.
- Observe the inclusiveness of PTA's founding by organizing a culture festival celebrating your community's various ethnic and cultural groups.
- Present Honorary Life Memberships to past PTA presidents and other volunteers who have made a tremendous impact in their communities.
- Invite all past living PTA presidents to attend a special meeting.
- Recite the Mission of the State PTA at a special meeting.
- Put on a musical revue, play, or pageant.
- Send a Founders Day gift to State PTA, such as \$1 for each year of membership.
- Locate and highlight any resolutions that your PTA sent forward to the State and National PTA.
- Share information from State and National PTA through mailings to members.
- Celebrate each anniversary of State and National PTA with an ice-cream party for students.
- Challenge students to research PTA and create a school display or mural.
- Ask local grocers and vendors to print PTA anniversary messages on their bags.

## Contributions

Founders Day contributions may be made at any time of year. Make a contribution to welcome new members to your community or honor a special PTA friend.

Would you like another person to also receive an acknowledgement of this contribution?

Please fill out the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you.*

### Where do your Founders Day contributions go?

Half of your Founders Day contribution goes to New York State PTA for leadership development and

the other half of your contribution goes to National PTA to support their programs.