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 2017
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determine whether to adopt positions that have been recommended for retention (reaffirmation) or update or to be rescinded. A resolution may be rescinded from this document when the action(s) in the resolved clauses has been taken. Rescinded resolutions are entered into an ongoing record of retired resolutions.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.
#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.

Note: there are no NEW resolutions for 2017.
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 10th 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.
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
Lisa Christoffel, Field Support Coordinator

Anne Ehrlich, Health and Wellness Specialist
Jane Harsha, NYS PTA Vice President for Advocacy

Michele Gantt, Juvenile Protection Specialist
Lonnie Phillips, Family Engagement Coordinator
Cathy Romano, Education Coordinator
Susanne Smoller, Legislation Coordinator
Lucille Vitale, Health and Wellness Coordinator

PowerPoint based on The Resolutions Puzzle by L. Ajemian