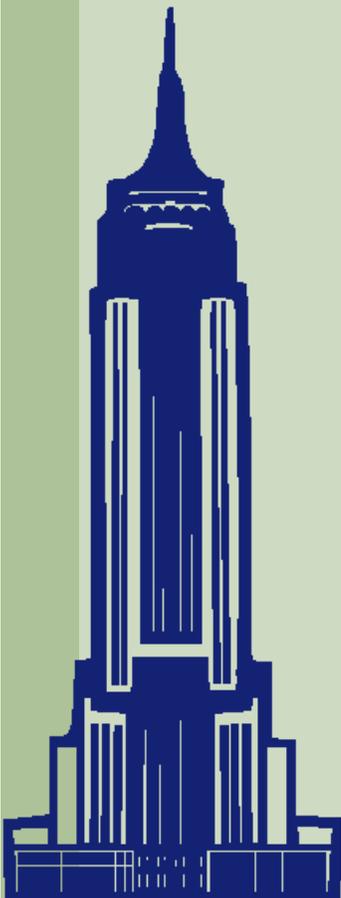


October 2019



Empire State
PTSA
everychild.onevoice.®



Advocating since 1979

A Message from the President

Greetings Empire State PTSA Members!

Welcome to a NEW PTSA year. This year is a very exciting one for Empire State PTSA as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary! To recognize this momentous occasion, this year's annual meeting will be held during dinner on Friday, November 8, 2019 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in beautiful Tarrytown, NY. Our annual meeting will take place at the NYS PTA Convention which is being held from November 8-10. I certainly hope you are among the 52 individuals who have registered to attend!

Now that we are experiencing some REAL fall weather, let's talk about some REAL Empire State PTSA happenings. At the Empire State PTSA Annual Meeting, **National PTA President Leslie Boggs** will bring us greetings and install the elected officers, we will adopt bylaws, and elect the 2019-2020 ESPTSA officers. In accordance with our bylaws requirements, you were provided with 30 days' notice of the proposed

amendments in an email sent on October 5. (See page 4 of this newsletter to review the proposed updates.) Thank you to committee members Jackie Wilson, Lori Fontana, and David Steggles for their work on the proposed amendments.

The annual meeting also provides us the opportunity to recognize the recipient of ESPTSA's Muriel Berk Service Award. Be sure to join us as we celebrate our 2019 honoree; an extraordinary member who exemplifies those qualities of passion, persistence, and commitment of ESPTSA founder, Muriel Berk, and who has a rich legacy of contribution at every level of the PTA community. I would like to extend my appreciation to Idalia Sepulveda, chair of the Muriel Berk Award committee and to committee members Maria DeWald, Tammy Gamble, Bevin Lanes, and Susan Lipman, for their thoughtful consideration and time given to review the nominations.

We appreciate all who value the PTA mission through their support of our statewide unit. If you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so. **JUST CLICK HERE.** For just a small contribution of \$10.00 (not much more than the cost of a few cups of coffee), you can add your voice to support the children in New York State and around the nation. Remember, in order to attend our statewide unit meeting one must be an ESPTSA member. With all of the health, safety and educational issues that our children face, we need your voice!

My thanks go to Executive Committee members Lori Fontana, Kelly Short, and Jacqueline Wilson for their team spirit in working together through this past year.

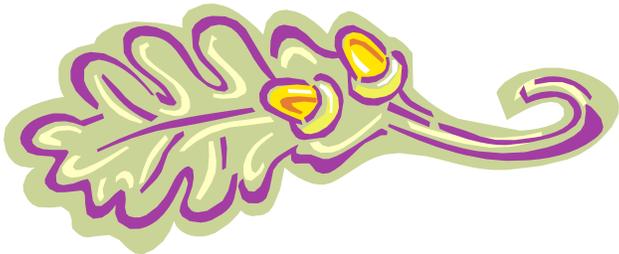
I look forward to seeing you in November and wish all safe travel to Tarrytown!

Warm regards to all,
Gracemarie Rozea,
President

ESPTSA Call to Annual Meeting

ESPTSA Call to Annual Meeting!

The Annual Meeting of the Empire State PTSA will be a dinner meeting on Friday, November 8, from 6:00 to 7:15 p.m. at the NYS PTA Annual Convention. This year the convention will be in Tarrytown, NY and the dinner will be in the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel in beautiful Tarrytown, NY. We will have a private dining room for this meeting; please check the program for the exact location. In addition to election of officers and a nominating committee, the draft minutes from the 2018 Annual meeting, financial report of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and the proposed 2019- 2020 ESPTSA budget will be presented for approval.



ESPTSA 2019-2020 Proposed Slate of Officers

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the following slate of ESPTSA officers for 2019- 2020 is presented for your consideration.

President: Gracemarie Rozea

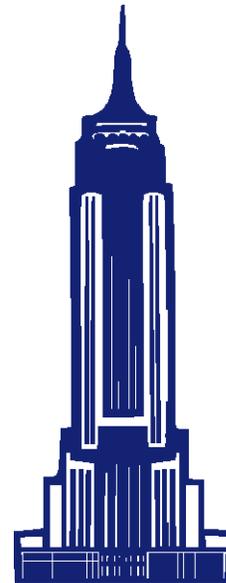
Vice-President: Lori Fontana

Secretary: Kelly Short

Treasurer: Jacqueline Wilson

The diligence of the Committee, consisting of Tammy Gamble, Chair, Lori Fontana, and Bevin Llanes is greatly appreciated!

Election of officers will be held at the annual meeting on Friday November 8, 2019.



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ESPTSA Membership

The 2018-2019 membership nearly met the prior year's totals with a strong 212 members (225 for 2017-18). To current members, we are thankful for your support (we are already at 88 members - 12 more than last year at this time!). This year we are looking to continue to enhance our statewide network in support of public education. Our goal is to see 218 members. So ask

your friends to join ESPTSA today to add their voice! To become a member and pay online [CLICK HERE](#). If someone does not wish to pay online they can still register online and pay in person by mailing a check, or use the traditional method of completing an Empire State PTSA form in our brochure, [CLICK HERE](#).

Thank you for renewing your mem-

bership for the 2019-2020 year, and welcome to our new members. ESPTSA challenges every member not only to renew their membership but to gift a membership to a family member or friend so that we speak for every child with a stronger voice!

2018 Muriel Berk Award Honoree Susan Lipman

In celebration of Empire State PTSA's 35th Anniversary, the Muriel Berk Service Award was introduced at our November 2014 Annual Meeting. In an effort to honor ESPTSA founder Muriel Berk's visionary leadership, this award recognizes an extraordinary ESPTSA member – one who reflects her passion, persistence and commitment to inclusivity and advocacy and who believes that, by doing so, we strengthen our collective voice to improve the lives of all children and families.

Empire State PTSA had the privilege of presenting the fourth Muriel Berk Service Award at the 2018 NYS PTA Annual Convention. Below is testimonial to 2018 recipient, Susan Lipman. (The 2019 recipient will be announced at the 2019 NYS PTA Convention.)

I would like to submit the name of a women who exemplifies the meaning of advocate. Susan Lipman, has a passion for PTA. Her early PTA experience began in 1986. After attending NYS PTA conventions she held leadership positions at all levels in her school district culminating with service on her district's council, region, state and eventually held a position on the National PTA.

Susan became A President in her local units and Council, Suffolk's District Director, New York State PTA President, President of Empire State PTSA, then as a member of National PTAs Board of Directors. Advocacy and Public Education were the driving forces behind her passion. She advocated in Albany and Washington DC on behalf of all children.

Susan's passion for learning and sharing her knowledge is evident in her continuing commitment to serve actively on Suffolk Region PTA and New York State PTA in support and advisory capacities.

She has been on her district's Board of Education for over 12 years and is currently a Board of Education member on Eastern Suffolk BOCES board. She is on the board of REFIT and Nassau Suffolk School Boards Association.

An educator herself she serves PTA with a love and compassion for all children. She never stays in the past, always moving forward keeping her ideas fresh and in touch with today's needs.

Susan has been a mentor to me as a Region Director, as she has been to our past Region Directors and State Presidents. Always there to lend a hand, a piece of advice (solicited or not), or an encouraging word. She believes in PTA and the power of our voices. There is no one more committed to our mission and dedicated to all children then Susan.

Please consider Susan Lipman for the Muriel Berk Award.



The new Muriel Berk Service Award Honoree Plaque will be on display at our annual meeting!

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article VIII Officers and their elections- Section 2c** by striking and inserting the wording as proposed

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><u>ARTICLE VIII-Officers and their election- Section 2c</u></p> <p>Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected.</p> <p>“Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no member shall remain in office for more than two (2) consecutive terms. in the event a successor is not elected after two years, the position shall be declared vacant and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in these bylaws”</p>	<p><u>ARTICLE VIII-Officers and their election- Section 2c</u></p> <p>Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the annual meeting and shall serve for a term of one year or until a successor is elected. <u>shall serve for a term of two (2) years or until a successor is elected.</u></p> <p><i>Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, no member shall remain in office for more than two (2) <u>one (1)</u> consecutive term. In the event a successor is not elected after <u>said</u> two years, the position shall be declared vacant and the vacancy shall be filled as provided in these bylaws.</i></p> <p><i>Rationale: This would be in line with the term of the NYS PTA officers</i></p>

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article VIII Officers and their elections- Section 4- Vacancies-** by striking the wording as proposed

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><u>Article VIII Officers and their elections- Section 4- Vacancies</u></p> <p>A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a person elected by a majority vote of the executive board, notice of such election having been given to the executive board. In case of a vacancy occurs in the office of the president, the first vice president shall serve notice of the election to the executive board</p>	<p><u>Article VIII Officers and their elections- Section 4- Vacancies</u></p> <p>A vacancy occurring in any office shall be filled for the unexpired term by a person elected by a majority vote of the executive board, notice of such election having been given to the executive board. In case of a vacancy occurs in the office of the president, the first vice president shall serve notice of the election to the executive board</p> <p><i>Rationale: Empire State PTSA does not have the office of first vice-president</i></p>

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Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article VIII- Duties of Officers-Section 3b.- Recording Secretary - by striking and inserting the language as proposed**

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><u>Article VIII- Duties of Officers-Section 3. Recording Secretary-letter b.</u></p> <p>3. Recording Secretary</p> <p>b. Send the names and addresses of the elected officers to the region director immediately following their election</p>	<p><u>Article VIII- Duties of Officers-Section 3. Recording Secretary- letter b.</u></p> <p>3. Recording-Secretary</p> <p>b. Send the names and addresses of the elected officers to the region director immediately following their election</p> <p><u>See that the names and addresses of the elected officers are recorded using the method designated by NYS PTA</u></p> <p><i>Rationale: Empire State PTSA has only one secretary and does not belong to a Region.</i></p>

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article VIII- Duties of Officers-Section 4.** by striking the language as proposed and renumbering the rest

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><u>Article VIII- Duties of Officers-Section 4.</u></p> <p>4. The Recording Secretary shall also</p>	<p><u>Article VIII- Duties of Officers-Section4.</u></p> <p>4. The Recording Secretary shall also</p> <p><i>Rationale: To clean up the language and list all the duties of the secretary together</i></p>

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article X – Executive Board – Section 4f.** by striking the current wording as proposed and inserting new language

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>Article X – Executive Board – Section 4</p> <p>4f. Appoint an audit committee of no fewer than three (3) members or a professional auditor at least two (2) weeks prior to the date the audit report is due.</p>	<p>Article X – Executive Board – Section 4</p> <p>4f. Appoint an audit committee of no fewer than three (3) members or a professional auditor at least two (2) weeks prior to the date the audit report is due. <u>Submit an accounting of the financial transactions to the NYS PTA treasurer for audit by a certified public accountant approved by the NYS PTA Board of Directors</u></p> <p><i>Rationale: Empire State PTSA does not conduct its own audit</i></p>

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article X – Executive Board –Section 4.** – a new letter g.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p>Article X – Executive Board –Section 4g</p> <p>none</p>	<p>Article X – Executive Board –Section 4</p> <p><u>g. Members of the Executive Board may participate in and act at any meeting of the Board by conference call, teleconference, or other electronic media where all participating in the meeting can communicate with each other at the same time as permitted by applicable law. Participation in such a meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting.</u></p> <p><i>Rationale: Provides the ability for the ESPTSA Board to conduct business and establish a quorum without a face to face meeting.</i></p>

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article XII- Committees-Section 8g.** by striking the language as proposed.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><u>Article XII – Committees – Section 8g</u></p> <p>8g. An audit committee of no fewer than three (3) members or a professional auditor shall be appointed by the executive board at least two (2) weeks prior to the date the audit report is due. This committee shall examine the treasurer’s accounts and, satisfied that they are correct, sign a statement of that fact to be presented for adoption by the membership at the November meeting.</p>	<p><u>Article X – Executive Board –Section 4</u></p> <p>8g. An audit committee of no fewer than three (3) members or a professional auditor shall be appointed by the executive board at least two (2) weeks prior to the date the audit report is due. This committee shall examine the treasurer’s accounts and, satisfied that they are correct, sign a statement of that fact to be presented for adoption by the membership at the November meeting.</p> <p><i>Rationale: This is now addressed in the new Article X Section 4f.</i></p>

Proposed Motion: I move on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to amend the Empire State PTSA Bylaws: **Article XVII – Amendments- Section 1b.** by striking and inserting the wording as proposed.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
<p><u>Article XVII – Amendments- Section 1b</u></p> <p>1b. Sent whether revised or not, to the region bylaws chair for review or, in the chair’s absence to the region director who shall forward all bylaws to the New York State PTA Bylaws Coordinator for review and approval.</p>	<p><u>Article XVII – Amendments- Section 1b</u></p> <p>1b. Sent whether revised or not, to the region bylaws chair for review or, in the chair’s absence to the region director who shall forward all bylaws to the New York State PTA Bylaws Coordinator for review and approval.</p> <p><i>Rationale: ESPTSA is not a member of any Region.</i></p>