Message from the NYS PTA President

This Annual Report of the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. documents the efforts and effects of the hard work yielded by our membership, dedicated governance team, and support staff. It chronicles our progress toward achieving our goals of making every child’s potential a reality and ensuring that every child’s dream is fulfilled.

At the 2018 Annual Meeting in Saratoga Springs, I announced the theme that would accompany my time as President of our association. I have personally witnessed our association over the last twenty years cope with the challenge of advocating for every child with one voice on a multitude of growing concerns facing our youth. I have watched units struggle to increase membership when 53% of our children qualify for free and reduced lunch. I have felt the reality of doing more with less as the volunteer base across our units, councils, regions and state has decreased. My theme to “Garner the Past, Change Today, Embrace Tomorrow” was an appropriate way to remind us all of what NYS PTA needed to accomplish. As a phoenix rises up, renewed to begin again, so shall we. In its wings it carries the children. In its colors it breathes diversity and relevance. We cannot know where we are going, unless we know where we have been. I asked you to look to your left and Garner the Past. I passionately believe we cannot expect different results, if we do not change today, and I am confident we will only succeed if we agree to embrace tomorrow. I urge you to continue to keep a positive mindset, to be bold, brave, and kind, to lead with a smile and follow with a laugh, and most importantly remember to keep kids first.

NYS PTA has updated its Strategic Plan, fine-tuned existing strategies, and implemented new approaches in order to achieve our goals. Indeed, NYS PTA has championed so much for the children of NY. This theme is defining our work, which will ultimately lead us across the bridge to a place where every child matters, every child has an equal opportunity, and every child succeeds.

Lorey A. Zaman, President (2018-2020)
Garner the Past, Change Today, Embrace Tomorrow
For 123 years, NYS PTA has been making every child’s potential a reality as the premier association for parent and family engagement and advocacy for all children.

We are proudly the largest, and oldest, child advocacy association serving children and families.

**Our Mission**

*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.*

everyChild.oneVoice.

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**NYS PTA Fast Facts**

- 2,6 million school children
- 245,000 advocates for children
- 1,455 units and councils
- ONE voice

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**Our Commitments**

**Advocacy**

We will always be the leading advocate for ALL children. It is our primary responsibility to advocate for the education, physical and mental health, welfare and safety of children and youth.

**Membership**

Our members make a difference each and every day in their schools and communities. We must work to continue to support members as we Impact Tomorrow by Joining Today.

**Diversity**

We are committed to promoting and advancing diversity and inclusion. We must work together to create, at all levels, an inclusive and supportive environment reflective of our children and their families.

**Leadership**

Our members are leaders. They expand their leadership development through various NYS PTA training and support initiatives, so they can better support children and their families.

**Programs**

We know that programs are essential to the success of our students. We continue to expand programs for PTAs, schools and children, and make each child’s potential a reality.
We will always Garner the Past, Embrace Today, to Change Tomorrow for ALL children.

Advocacy is PTA’s primary mission.

We must support the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth.

We must continue to engage our members, educators, and the community by expanding awareness of public policies affecting children and families.

We must equip NYS PTA leaders and members to become trusted messengers and champions for children and families.

We must make every child’s potential a reality. And it has been a BUSY year.

- YOU sent 23,429 emails to your legislators from January to June this year, up from 10,000 emails last year
- We fiercely advocated for the passage of Tobacco 21, which becomes state law on November 13
- We stopped the passage of legalized recreational marijuana in NYS
- We won stop arm cameras on school buses to increase the safety for our children
- We stood behind legislators and the governor, in calling for a full ban on vaping and e-cigarette flavors
- We fought for school counselors, social workers, and teacher support
- We met with nearly 100 policy makers on lobby day
- We lobbied on gun reforms and protection for children in DC
- We fought for school aid, supports for children, mental health, whole child education, recess
- We continue to fight for a meaningful pathway for college or career for ALL children and expansion of Career and Technical Education
- We fought for a parent’s right to make educational decisions for their children
- We continue to press for fair, limited, and developmentally appropriate diagnostic-only assessments
- We continue to ask for amendments to the tax cap
- We fought for support for our English Language Learners
- We continue to seek support for our struggling schools
- We called for expansion and funding to recovery high schools, and the prevention and treatment of heroin and opioid abuse
- We continue fighting for pre-K and full-day kindergarten for all and meaningful family engagement
- We held an amazingly successful Family Engagement Conference for the second year
- And will be launching a new conference in December, Supporting the Whole Child: A focus on student mental health, with partner Go Guardian

But our work is never done. We are 245,000 advocates for children.

Advocacy Fast Facts

- 23,429 Advocacy Emails Sent
- 67 Lobby Day Meetings with Legislators
- 245,000 Advocates

Advocacy Highlight

NYS PTA fiercely advocated against the legalization of recreational marijuana. You can expect another battle this coming legislative session.

You sent 7,263 emails to state leaders on this issue alone!

We lead a coalition of organizations in opposition.

After nearly a dozen press conferences, events across the state, and hundreds of legislative meetings, the measure was defeated.

We will continue our strongest opposition and stand tall to protect our children.
HOW WILL YOU CELEBRATE YOUR NEW SCHOOL AND PTA YEAR?

By rejoining PTA?

By joining PTA for the first time?

PTA MYTH #7
The PTA is only for stay at home parents who have nothing to do.

TRUTH
As PTA members we are all juggling work, home, school, sports, family and anything else that comes along.

Our association is the best voice to make sure that we’re being heard and that our children are getting the resources they need.

Add your voice! Join your local PTA today!

New York State PTA
Change Today, Embrace Tomorrow.

There is nothing more important to an association than its members. And NYS PTA stands 245,000 members tall, as the third largest state PTA in the country.

Our members and volunteers make a difference every day in the life of a child.

Did you know that when you join your local PTA you immediately become a member of NYS PTA and National PTA?

Did you know that NYS PTA and National PTA offer benefits to members and units, like grants and discounts?

Did you know that anyone can be a PTA member: parents, family members, community members and businesses?

Did you know that NYS PTA members can attend region, state and national events and conferences?

Did you know your unit can receive membership awards during the year?

- September – Early Bird Award: Register and pay dues for members representing at least 60% of your membership goal by September 30
- October-December – Region Membership Olympics: Calling all Region, Council and Unit membership teams to achieve and exceed your Region Membership Goal. At the end of December the Region with the overall highest percentage to Region Membership goal will be recognized!
- January – Terrific Teacher/Super Staff Award: Register and pay dues for teachers and school staff members representing at least 75% of the total number of school employees by January 31
- February – Students Rock 20% Award: Register and pay dues for students representing at least 20% of your total membership by February 29
- March – Students Rock 30% Award: Register and pay dues for students representing at least 30% of your total membership by March 31
- June – Membership Growth Awards: Membership Growth over last year (Gold 100%; Silver 50%; Bronze 25%)

We are proud to share the following new units who chartered between October 24, 2018 and September 18, 2019:

- Anthony Alfano PTA – Suffolk Region
- Arbor Hill Elementary School PTA – Northeastern Region
- Benjamin Franklin Elementary School PTA – Southeastern Region
- Burnt Hills-Ballston Lake SEPTA – Southeastern Region
- Jamesville Elementary School PTA – Southeastern Region
- Keshqua PTSA – Genesee Valley Region
- Nassau BOCES Barry Tech PTSA – Nassau Region
- Orchard Park SEPTSA – Western Region
- South Seneca PTSA – Genesee Valley Region
- Tony Clement Center for Education PTSA – Northeastern Region

As of November 1, NYS PTA has 180,767 paid members. Last year at this time, we had 91,257 paid members. That’s 89,510 MORE members than last year at this time.

Our membership is GROWING, AGAIN!

These accomplishments are because of YOUR dedication to our children.
NYS PTA and Syosset Council of PTAs Honored Nationally for Championing Diversity and Inclusion
Diversity

Every parent has a dream for their child, but unfortunately, not all families have the support to see those dreams fulfilled. That’s where you come in.

As an association, we must create a wholly inclusive school, community and association environment, reflective of the populations we seek to serve. One without bias, one that welcomes ALL children and families.

We must continue to target outreach and support to all children and families, especially underserved urban, rural, immigrant and English Language Learning communities.

From testifying in support of English Language Learners, supporting immigrant rights, and working with our new Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach and LGBTQ Caucuses, NYS PTA continues to advocate for ALL children and ALL families.

But our work is never done. No matter race or ethnicity, gender identification or expression, disability, income level, or spoken word, NYS PTA stands ready to challenge the status quo, ensuring there is no place for hate or bias in our schools and communities.

We are proud recipients of the 2018 Jan Harpe Domene Diversity and Inclusion Award, and the work of our Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach Committee and LGBTQ Caucus continues.

We continue to focus on an institution-wide commitment to addressing diversity, equity, learning and meaningful student success.

Together, we will explore critical questions and formulate action-oriented strategies to make excellence inclusive for all students through sustainable and measurable school and family engagement practices in partnership with school districts and state leadership.

Our children and youth are the future of our Association. And NYS PTA continues to make an investment in our youth. This year, we expanded our commitment to our youth: creating a statewide Youth Committee and holding a brand new event, the NYS PTA Youth Summit.

Young adults ages 14-25 from around the state joined attendees at the Summer Leader Conference in Albany and participated in workshops geared solely to our youth members. They met with state PTA leaders, engaged in critical thinking and communication skills, and learned about working together as a team.
Leadership

A diverse and strong leadership is critical to the success of our Association. NYS PTA continually assesses to ensure we support all children and families, AND all members, units, councils, regions and leaders.

Over the past years, the NYS PTA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and Governance Team have focused on ensuring NYS PTA is flexible, yet strong, to change with the demands of these times.

This has meant making decisions to ensure we remain fiscally sound, while supporting volunteers and ALL children. We have reduced our regions from 15 to 12, thereby providing a greater region volunteer base and opportunity for support. We have increased resources to regions, and continue to offer multiple opportunities for growth, from leadership webinars to workshops, to events and region programming. We know that each of our members has the potential to lead in our great association. And we look to you to find the future leaders.

We have also embarked on a year long process focusing on having meaningful conversations regarding the continued success of our Association, the “Embrace Tomorrow Model,” as we explore how to take NYS PTA into 2020 and beyond. By focusing on strengthening the connections between unit, council, region and state PTA, we will ensure the continued and expanded success of the largest and oldest child advocacy association in our great state.

The 2018-19 Leadership Webinar Series topics include:

- Fiscal Fitness for Units: a Guide for Treasurers (October 16)
- Family Engagement: Welcoming All Families in your School Community (November 13)
- Building Great Relationships with School and District Leadership (December 18)
- The Region PTA: All about Region PTAs and what they do (January 15)
- Nominations and Elections (February 25)

With a focus on supporting diverse families, the Family Engagement Conference: Engage and Embrace Tomorrow’s Families, was a huge success! With our largest attendance yet for this event, educators and PTA members discussed critical issues facing children, families and school and tackled strategies on how to support ALL families together.

Summer Leadership was another hit! Nearly 200 members attended multiple workshops and presentations on issues facing PTA units and children. Workshops included topics such as Family Engagement, supporting Students With Disabilities, State Aid to School Districts, Resolutions, Diversity, Membership, Reflections, Wellness, Literacy, Rural Schools, and Mental Health Education.

Convention 2018 was a huge success.

Delegates were inspired by keynotes from Aidan Anderson, Co-Founder of Aidan Cares, Christopher Albrecht, 2018 NYS Teacher of the Year, Jim Accomando, National PTA President, and Dr. Anael Alston, Assistant Commissioner, NYS Education Department.

Delegates elected President Lorey A. Zaman, 1st Vice President Jane Harsha, Vice President Antoinette Darden-Cintron, Vice President Suzanne Smoller, and Secretary Helen Hoffman.

Delegates approved 6 Bylaws amendments, 20 resolution retentions, 6 resolution updates, 1 resolution recession and 1 new resolution.
## Programs and Awards

### Fast Facts

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<th>Item</th>
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<td>Reflections entries</td>
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<td>2020-2021 Reflections Theme Search</td>
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<td>submissions</td>
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<td>Award of Excellence Winners</td>
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<td>Reflective Decals Distributed</td>
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## Programs

### Highlights

**A Focus on Safety and Wellness**

**Every Child Travels Safely Expands!** Our traffic safety program for children and families continues to expand.

We held 23 traffic safety events around the state for children and families, up from 11 last year, working with local PTAs and schools, regions and partners such as law enforcement, first responders, and other traffic safety and child advocacy organizations.

**Every Child Healthy Launches!** Together with FidelisCare, NYS PTA launched a new health and wellness program – Every Child Healthy. NYS PTA held 9 wellness events in units from August to October, and is looking for PTAs to host wellness events for the Spring!
Programs

Programs are at the heart of the PTA mission to make every child’s potential a reality. NYS PTA is proud of its continued expansion of programs, awards and grants!

The Arts

On Saturday, September 21, NYS PTA held its 6th Annual NYS PTA Celebration of the Arts. More than 160 children, parents and family members attended.

In May, National PTA announced that our student entries received four Awards of Excellence and four Awards of Merit:

National Reflections Award of Excellence Winners:
- Jason Kasnicki, Music Composition – Intermediate (Western Region)
- Griffin Hon, Film Production – Middle School (Nassau Region)
- Isabella Ramirez, Dance Choreography – High School (Nassau Region)
- Ruby King, Visual Arts – Primary (Central Hudson Region)

National Reflections Award of Merit Winners:
- Isabel Ramsey, Visual Arts – High School (Niagara Region)
- Alexandra Francois, Dance Choreography – Intermediate (Nassau Region)
- Nicole Champlin, Music Composition – Middle School (Genesee Valley Region)
- Giovanni Mincin, Music Composition – Primary (Nassau Region)

Literacy

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.” —Dr. Seuss

The Pick A Reading Partner program leads the way in literacy!

Congratulations to this year’s PARP Award winner, Rensselaer Park Elementary PTA (Northeastern Region) – with their program, “The Great Subway Reading Race.”

Awards

Congratulations to the Stanley Marcus Award winner, Alissa Moeller from Sachem East HS (Suffolk Region)!

2019 Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education Recipients
- Kristen Bacher, Hamburg High School (Western Region)
- Elizabeth Eberhardt, Hamburg High School (Western Region)
- Renée Edbauer, Starpoint High School (Niagara Region)
- Amanda Friedman, Smithtown High School West (Suffolk Region)
- Kayla Gollmer, Colonie Central High School (Northeastern Region)
- Elizabeth Goodenough, Marlboro Central High School (Taconic Region)
- Ashlee Howell, Medina High School (Niagara Region)
- Sean Martin, Croton Harmon High School (Westchester East- Putnam Region)
- Erin Mulgrew, Clarkstown High School South (Central Hudson Region)
- Jessica Nischo, Sachem North High School (Suffolk Region)
- Gianna Wheeler, Babylon Jr Sr High School (Suffolk Region)
- Rebecca Whitney, Port Jervis High School (Central Hudson Region)

2019 Teacher Fellowship In Memory of Richard Gazzola Recipients
- Christina E. Moser, Old Mill Road School PTA (Nassau Region)
- Nicole Schiavone, Island Trees Elementary PTA (Nassau Region)

Community Service Award Recipients
- Belgium Cold Springs Fire Department
- Pam DiMola
- Anastasia Geotes
- GW 5th Grade Ambassadors & Laura Mungin
- Kristine Haffner
- Herricks Community Fund
- School #8 (Oceanside, NY) Faculty and Staff
- Syosset High School Security Staff
- Syosset High School Guidance Department
- Julie Tuttle
- Nelly Valentin
- Judi Vining
Your Board of Directors and staff strive to make sound fiscal decisions that will ensure the continued fiscal stability and growth of the Association.

For the fourth straight year, NYS PTA did NOT use reserves to fund our budget.

With infusions of revenue from non-dues revenue, and a review and prioritization of spending, in a time when others are struggling, we are growing our programs and services to our members, children and families.

Our 2018-2019 audit was performed by Bonadio & Co. They have once again expressed an unqualified opinion on our financial statements, which have been reviewed and approved by our Board of Directors.

An unqualified opinion is the best and highest opinion an audit firm can provide.

We are proud to share that in 2018-19, NYS PTA increased its total assets by $302,000.

These financial successes stem from sound fiscal management by our Executive Committee, Board of Directors and Executive Director and staff.

The future of NYS PTA is strong. You can find our full financial report on the website under NYS PTA Fast Facts.

### New York State PTA Cash Activity

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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention</td>
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<td>Summer Leadership</td>
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<td>Legislative Summit/KAP/Lobby Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gifts/Grants/Sponsorship</td>
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<td>Service Awards</td>
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<td>Investment Interest</td>
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<td>PTA Store (Gross Receipts)</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Income/Donations</td>
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<td>Allocation from Insurance Program</td>
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<td>Total Revenue General Operating Fund</td>
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<tr>
<th>Expenditures: General Operating Fund</th>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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<td>Field Support</td>
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<td>Leadership Development and Volunteer Governance</td>
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<td>Programs and Awards</td>
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<td>Service to Members</td>
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<td>Staff Service to Members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenditures General Operating Fund</td>
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<td>$821,753</td>
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Total Revenue                         | $998,005         |
Total Expense                          | $821,753         |
Net Revenue                            | $176,251         |
Upcoming NYS PTA Events

Legislative Summit and Lobby Day
Albany, NY
Sunday, February 9 – Monday, February 10, 2020

Supporting the Whole Child
Mental Health Conference
The Desmond | Albany, NY
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

124th Annual NYS PTA Convention
Syracuse, NY
Friday, November 13 – Sunday, November 15, 2020

Summer Leadership Conference
Utica College | Utica, NY
Saturday, July 18 – Sunday, July 19, 2020

Remember: Fees for NYS PTA events are always considered legitimate PTA expenses, and funds to attend leadership and training events should be included in your unit, council or region budget.
Executive Committee

President: Lorey A. Zaman
First Vice President: Jane E. Harsha
Vice President: Antoinette Darden-Cintron
Vice President: Lucille Vitale
Secretary: Helen Hoffman
(Acting) Treasurer: Patricia Frazier
Immediate Past President: Gracemarie Rozea

Coordinators

Bylaws: Jacqueline Wilson
Diversity: Ina Ferguson
Education: Amy Hysick
Family Engagement: Kim Blasiak
Field Support: Pat Assortato
Leadership Development: Antoinette Darden-Cintron
Legislation: Patrice Rachlin
Membership: Kelly Short
Outreach: Patricia Frazier
Programs: Melissa Cancro
Resolutions: Lucille Vitale
Wellness: Amany Messieha Dgheim
Youth Members: Richard Gakshteyn
Safia Zaman

Specialists

Arts: Alaina Rullo
Awards: Gail Gligora
Environment: [vacant]
Juvenile Protection: [vacant]
Leadership Training: Paige Pye
Male Engagement: Kevin Lundell
Marketing: Mary Sotomayor
Rural: Adrienne Gliha-Bell
Special Education: Lissa Zukoff
Urban: Amanda Tobias

Consultants

Convention 2019 Coordinator: Laurie May

Region Directors

Central Hudson: Alison M.S. St. Louis
Suffolk: Joan Wabnik
Leatherstocking: Renée Daniels
Genesee Valley: Sonya Verrillo
Nassau: Lynn Petrofsky
Niagara: Tammy Dodge
Northeastern: Geri Lehane
South Central: Janet Huie
Southeastern: Kelly Howe
Taconic: Karen Quimby
Westchester-East Putnam: Beth Sniffen
Western: Candy Ditkowsi

Office Staff

Executive Director: Kyle McCauley Belokopitsky, Esq.
Operations / Events Manager: Carol Raymond
Communications / Marketing Manager: Aimee Tweedie
Membership / Insurance Manager: Dunia Welch
Events / Programs Associate: Donna Trikoulis

Our Regions