# Who’s Who Leadership 2020

**In Memoriam of President Lorey A. Zaman:**

It is with the utmost sadness that NYS PTA shares its unspeakable loss in the passing of our State President Lorey A. Zaman on September 1, 2020.

On behalf of the NYS PTA Governance Team and Staff, we express our deepest condolences to Lorey’s fiancé and her four wonderful children. We thank them for generously sharing their mom with PTA for so many years.

Let us hold Lorey’s family tight in our loving thoughts and prayers.

Please view our website for a full tribute to our colleague and friend, Lorey: https://nyspta.org/2020/09/02/in-remembrance-of-lorey-a-zaman/

## Executive Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Jane E Harsha</th>
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<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Gracemarie Rozea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leadership Development</td>
<td>Rob Rijos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>Jensuh McCormack</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td>Alison St. Louis</td>
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<td>Northeastern</td>
<td>Geri Lehane</td>
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## Coordinators/Board of Directors

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Dana Platin</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bylaws</td>
<td>Jacqueline Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legislation</td>
<td>Sarah Henri</td>
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<td>Awards</td>
<td>Bevin Llanes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suffolk</td>
<td>Lori Fontana</td>
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<td>South Central</td>
<td>Janet Huie</td>
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<tr>
<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Antoinette Darden-Cintron</th>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Namiko Suga</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>Mary Sotomayor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Mary Ann Carangelo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leatherstocking</td>
<td>Nicole Perretta</td>
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<td>Southeastern</td>
<td>Alaina Rullo</td>
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<th>Vice President</th>
<th>Lucille Vitale</th>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Amy Hysick</td>
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<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>Kim Blasiak</td>
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<td>Juvenile Protection</td>
<td>Susan Fisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Genesee Valley</td>
<td>Sonya Verrillo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taconic</td>
<td>Nicole Gavaletz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Events/Programs Associate</td>
<td>Donna Trikoulis</td>
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<th>Secretary</th>
<th>Helen Hoffman</th>
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<tr>
<td>Family Engagement</td>
<td>Melissa Cancro</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
<td>Kelly Howe</td>
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<td>Literacy</td>
<td>Paige Pye</td>
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<td>Nassau</td>
<td>Lynn Petrofsky</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westchester-East Putnam</td>
<td>Beth Sniffen</td>
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<td>Membership/Insurance Manager</td>
<td>Dania Welch</td>
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<th>Treasurer</th>
<th>Patty Frazier</th>
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<td>Field Support</td>
<td>Pat Assortato</td>
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<td>Resolutions</td>
<td>Patrice Rachlin</td>
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<td>Male Engagement</td>
<td>Kevin Lundell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Niagara</td>
<td>Tammy Dodge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Western</td>
<td>Candy Ditkowski</td>
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<tr>
<th>President, in Memoriam</th>
<th>Lorey A. Zaman</th>
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<tr>
<td>Field Support</td>
<td>Joan Wabnik</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wellness</td>
<td>Amany Messieha Dghem</td>
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<td>Rural</td>
<td>Lisa Mount</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Education</td>
<td>Lissa Zukoff</td>
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<td>Urban</td>
<td>Ina Ferguson</td>
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## Consultants

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<tr>
<th>2020 Convention Coordinator</th>
<th>Bonnie Russell</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020 Convention Coordinator in Training</td>
<td>Renee Daniels</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTA Store Consultant</td>
<td>Gail Gigora</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Development Mentor</td>
<td>Bonnie Russell</td>
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## Contact Information

New York State PTA
One Wembley Court
Albany, NY 12205
www.nyspta.org
pta.office@nyspta.org
518-452-8808

To contact NYS PTA Governance Team and Staff, you can find email addresses on the website at: https://nyspta.org/home/about/contact/
BYLAWS and PROCEDURES

- Check the expiration date of your bylaws. These MUST be reviewed and renewed at least every THREE years, regardless of changes in order for your unit to “remain in good standing.” Up to three (3) amendments can be made within the three-year date of expiration.
- Form a bylaws committee of three to five members including the chair. Use experienced people on the committee as well as newer members.
- Go to the NYS PTA website at nyspta.org. Under “Leaders” go to the Bylaws and Procedures Page. The documents that you will need for assistance as well as the contact information for your Region bylaws chair is located on this page. The Bylaws Wizard Button is at the top of the page. To begin the process, click on the button. The Wizard will walk you through a series of easy questions, e.g. dues amounts, officers, etc. The Wizard validates the information as you go through each step. Normally all information can be completed within 10 to 15 minutes. It is advisable to have a copy of your current bylaws for reference when completing the Wizard.
- Procedures (Standing Rules) are essential. They are a cumulative record of the association’s experience and serve as a guideline for current and future officers and chairs. Procedures are details of monthly PTA work that may be changed from year to year or from meeting to meeting. Procedures complement bylaws by providing details not outlined there. Together, the bylaws and procedures provide for the authority and administration of the affairs of the PTA. Procedures are adopted and may be amended at any regular meeting of the executive board by a majority vote of members present and voting with prior notice; otherwise, a 2/3 vote is needed. An effective procedure book can be a loose-leaf binder which can easily accommodate additions and, in periodic house cleanings, deletions.

NOMINATIONS and ELECTIONS

- If your nominating committee has met and completed the slate of officers, now is the time to notify your membership about an election of officers. If your nominating committee has not had the opportunity to meet, have them schedule a meeting as soon as possible in order to facilitate the election of officers.

The COVID-19 Page on the NYS PTA Website has information on how to run a virtual meeting if a live meeting is not possible.

- Calling the election – Check bylaws to ascertain the following:
  1. When the election meeting should be held. If elections have not yet been held, this should be a priority.
  2. How many days’ notice of the election meeting is necessary.
  3. When the nominating committee report is to be published – two weeks or one month prior.
  4. At the election meeting, the presiding officer calls upon the chair for the nominating committee report. Once the chair reads the report, the presiding officer then takes each office one at a time. Your bylaws will state whether or not a two-notice of intent to run is required. Nominations, which can be made by any voting member, do not require a second, but they do require verbal or written consent of the nominee.
  5. If there is only one candidate for an office, election can be by voice vote. If there is more than one candidate for an office, then the election MUST be done by a ballot vote.

For information on Bylaws, Procedures, and Nominations and Elections refer to the NYS PTA Resource Guide Section 7
or email: Jacqueline Wilson, Bylaws Coordinator, bylaws@nyspta.org

TREASURER TO-DO LIST

1. Confirm the Audit Committee will complete their work in time to present a report at your first meeting
2. Present your proposed 2020-2021 Budget to your members for approval
   a. Include carryover funds from 2019-2020 fiscal year
   b. Include only the local portion of funds received from dues
   c. Include expenses for training and attendance at region and state events
   d. Include expenses for PTA awards and volunteer celebrations
3. Plan for the monthly reconciliations of your bank statements
4. Review the Resource Guide Sections 5A Finance and Section 5B Insurance
5. File your Form 990 Tax Return by November 15
Our team is dedicated to providing you with the resources you need this new membership year! Please know that while our team is always available for questions, there are numerous resources available for you under the **Membership section** of the NYS PTA website.

**What is in the Membership section?**

- The Benefit section offers information on numerous discounts and special rates offered to members.
- The Toolkit section contains tools to help you with membership campaigns.
- The Awards section details the awards offered throughout the year.
- The MemberHub section offers resources on navigating MemberHub.

Questions? Always start with your Region Membership Chair!

PTA Resources

- Officer
- Region Membership Chair
- State Membership Coordinator

Contact Information

General Questions - membership@nyspta.org
Marketing Assistance - llorusso@nyspta.org
MemberHub Assistance - dwelch@nyspta.org

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Don't forget to follow, like, and share our posts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter!
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Leadership Webinar Series

Mark Your Calendar

Series 4 of our popular webinar trainings will be held on the first Wednesday evening of the month beginning in October and continuing through May.

Webinars will begin at 7:30pm and end at 8:30pm.

Topics to look for are fiscal fitness, nominations and elections, awards and technology tools.

Check out Webinar Series 1-3 here: https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/trainingmaterials-webinars/leadership-webinar-series/

Join our panelists for conversations about relevant PTA topics.

Questions welcome!

Watch your email and the NYS PTA social media pages for announcements of upcoming web chats.

Have an idea for a web chat topic?
Send it to chat@nyspta.org

Are your PTA officers and chairs in need of training?

Recordings and materials from the Summer Training Camp Workshops are available now at: https://nyspta.org/home/events/summer-leadership-conference/2020-summer-training-camp/

Workshops strands include Advocacy, Programs, Finances, Membership, Leadership, and Unit and Region Operations.

BONUS:
The Mental Health/Social and Emotional Learning Presentation can also be found at the above link.

Is your PTA path leading you to service on the NYS PTA Governance Team?

Learn more about NYS PTA leadership at https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/recruiting-leaders/

Complete the Letter of Interest form to indicate your interests and possible areas of involvement on the NYS PTA Governance Team or your region board.

For more information, contact Rob Rijos,
Leadership Development Coordinator
leadership.development@nyspta.org
PTA’s mission is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Advocacy begins at HOME and in YOUR SCHOOL and UNIT!

- We helped stop the passage of legalized recreational marijuana
- We supported the decriminalization of marijuana; many PTA members may not know about this social/racial position, but it was an important aspect of our advocacy, especially for families of color
- We won a full ban on vaping and e-cigarette flavors, and a ban on vaping on school grounds
- We fought for and won Tobacco 21
- We won stop-arm cameras on school buses to increase the safety for our children
- We fought for school counselors, social workers, and teacher support
- We lobbied on gun safety reforms and protection for children in DC
- We fought for school aid, supports for children, mental health, whole child education, and 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 parents’ right to make educational decisions for their children
- We continue to press for fair, limited, and developmentally appropriate diagnostic-only assessments
- 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

Advocacy Highlights

- 23,429 advocacy emails sent
- 245,000 advocates
- We fiercely advocated against the legalization of recreational marijuana, and our members sent 7,263 emails to state leaders on this issue alone! We led 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 strong opposition and stand tall to protect our children.

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.

Legislative Summit / Lobby Day

February 7-8, 2021
Albany, NY
PICK A READING PARTNER (PARP)

Learning to read is the single most important activity in a child’s education.

PARP is a program that asks a partner (parent, grandparent, babysitter, older sibling, cousin, friend, etc.) to read with a child for at least 20 minutes daily.

The daily activity of reading together strengthens reading and communication skills in the child and strengthens their relationship.

REFLECTIONS

The National PTA Reflections Program welcomes students of all grades and abilities to explore and be involved in the arts.

Students reflect on a theme and create original works of art in the areas of Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, and Visual Arts.

Encourage your school community to imagine, create, and celebrate with Reflections!

PROGRAM AWARDS

Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) Award – This award highlights the PARP program, shares outstanding PARP ideas with other PTAs, schools, libraries, communities and other parent groups, and shows the importance of reading and other literacy activities within the family and the community.

Reflections Theme Search Award – Children and youth can submit a national theme to serve as the inspiration for Reflections artists and their original works. Students submitting the winning theme receive $100 and recognition at the National PTA Convention.

STUDENT AWARDS

Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education – This award helps outstanding students prepare for the teaching profession.

Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award – This award will be given to one high school senior to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education or training and to continue their active engagement in advocacy in the areas of HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ+ community, mental health, social justice or substance use.

Youth Humanitarian Award in Memory of Stanley Marcus – This award recognizes a junior or senior who best exemplifies the humanitarian principles of Stanley Marcus, who is remembered for his humanitarianism and dedication to youth through zealous volunteer community service.

TEACHER AWARDS

NYS Teacher of the Year Award – The Teacher of the Year program recognizes and celebrates outstanding teachers throughout New York State.

Teacher Fellowship for Graduate Study in Memory of Richard Gazzola – This encourages excellent teachers to stay in the classroom by providing an opportunity to improve teaching skills, update professional knowledge and expand professional perspectives.

Innovative Teacher Grant – This grant recognizes outstanding teachers who are creating new programs and materials to help their students succeed.

ADVOCACY, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP, AND SERVICE AWARDS

Advocate in Action Award – This award acknowledges the involvement of PTA members in their child’s education as well as in their PTA.

Community Service Award – This award recognizes groups of individuals for their dedication and achievement to the children and youth of New York State.

Distinguished Service Award (DSA) – This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the welfare of children and youth, or to a PTA association.

Family Engagement Award in Honor of Jami-Beth Knapp – This award honors those that continue the work and dedication of Jami-Beth Knapp in family engagement.

Golden Oak and Diamond Awards for Special Recognition – These awards are a special way to honor your most dedicated volunteers.

Honorary Life Membership (HLM) – This award recognizes individuals for their contributions to the welfare of children and youth.

Leadership Award in Honor of Jane Skrzypek – This award recognizes an outstanding leader in your PTA who inspires others to volunteer and assume leadership positions.

For more information on Reflections, PARP and the NYS PTA Awards, please visit https://nyspta.org/home/programs/
You are invited to join our newly launched Facebook group:

**NYS PTA DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & OUTREACH**

- Relevant information
- Resources for your unit
- Sharing of ideas
- Safe space for conversations

Is your unit committed to **changing** the narrative and **embracing** diversity and inclusion?

Need a way to get started?

Use our Diversity and Inclusion Worksheet to plan every step of the way.

[link](https://nyspta.org/home/parent-resources/diversity-inclusion-equity/)

Don’t forget to share your success with us!

For more inspiration:

National PTA’s Diversity and Inclusion Toolkit

[link](https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/Diversity-Equity-Inclusion)

**We either step forward for success or step backward to be comfortable.**

Our Diversity, Inclusion and Outreach Committee is here to help!

For more information, contact

Namiko Suga
NYS PTA Diversity Coordinator
diversity@nyspta.org
124th Annual Business Meeting
November 13-15, 2020
New Virtual Format!

Legislative Summit / Lobby Day
February 7-8, 2021

Summer Leadership Conference
July 23-25, 2021

125th Annual Convention
November 19-21, 2021