The weather is certainly changing as we approach November. Fall is upon us and has always been my favorite time of the year, (after the first day of school, of course!). We have so many beautiful places to enjoy the outdoors in New York State, and such wonderful areas to observe the fall colors, take a hike and enjoy the great weather. I would like to share with you the top five things I look forward to each November…..

5. Fall foliage – taking brief day trips around the state to observe Mother Nature at her most beautiful
4. Election Day – each year we celebrate our freedom to choose the leaders of this great country. The right to vote is one of our democracy’s cornerstones
3. Veteran’s Day – the day we set aside to say “thank you” to all the men and women who have served this country throughout our history, with so many making the ultimate sacrifice
2. Thanksgiving – the food, the family, friends, the get togethers – it’s all about sharing around the table and enjoying those close to us
1. NYS PTA Convention – last year, due to the pandemic, we were unable to celebrate in person - but managed a fantastic convention virtually. This year we are looking forward to our special 125th Anniversary celebration – and hope that many will be able to join us “Live” in Syracuse.

I am sure that you all have your own “lists” but having been involved in PTA for so many years, I do look forward to the opportunity to meet with and network with amazing, committed leaders from around our wonderful New York state. The leadership opportunities, the important advocacy work that we do, debating and discussing bylaws and resolutions, hearing from phenomenal educational partners, and enjoying the performances and work of our outstanding NYS students is what makes the annual Convention so unique. I hope that if you are able that you will join us live, or virtually if you can.

Our annual meeting of the Empire State PTSA will take place at an invitation only breakfast on Sunday, November 21st at 7:30am. We are so fortunate that both Anna King, National PTA President and Yvonne Johnson, National PTA President-elect will be joining us for our meeting. If you are registering for convention, please be sure you have checked off Empire State Breakfast on Sunday on your registration form. I will be sending out the agenda and other important items to everyone prior to the meeting. It will be a convention to remember, literally one for the history books!

Continuing with our NYS PTA history…….
1940’s – PTA saw the passage of state aid to kindergarten bill after EIGHT years of struggle
1950’s – supports legislation to protect youth from drug addiction
1960’s – NY was selected as a pilot state for National PTA smoking and health project
1970’s – resolutions were passed dealing with spouse/child (sexual) abuse, student violence, funding mandates and state aid for the handicapped
1980’s -adopts resolutions on school bus safety, education and driver safety programs, and encourages legislation regarding bicycle helmet safety

Check out the “plus one” pictures from our members. We so appreciate your support in helping us achieve our membership goal.

Our wish, on behalf of the executive committee, Laurie, Kelly, Neil, and me, is that all of you are able to enjoy a safe, fall season filled with family, friends and wonderful memories.

Happy Birthday NYS PTA!

Warm regards,
Jacqueline Wilson, President
Empire State PTSA
SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Bonnie Russell

Twenty-one years ago when I attended my first PTA meeting, I never imagined the journey I had just started. As many of us, I wanted to be involved in my child’s school and thought that the PTA was the place to start. I thought, like many people, that a PTA was a gathering of parents that would work on projects that would help the school my son attended. Little did I realize, and soon would embrace, that PTA went way beyond the school and the district, but to a state and even national level.

I started out as a representative of a new committee, Character Education Committee. I may have started out helping to make flags and buttons for the ‘character trait of the month’, but it was just the beginning! Arts in Education has always been near and dear to my heart, so I was so excited when I advocated for our elementary PTA to bring the Reflections program to our school. Helping with the PARP program every year was another project that I loved to help with, as we advocated for our children to love reading books with a parent or partner.

As many of us can attest to, before I knew it I was a unit Vice President (wondering, ‘how did that happen?’). Soon to follow I found myself as the president of that unit, Council President, Region Director, various roles leading at the state level leading to being a Vice President and then President, and most recently the Chair of the National PTA Nominating Leadership Recruitment Committee.

All along, at all levels, advocating for children at all levels, simultaneously. Whether meeting with a US Senator, a State Legislator, a County Executive, or our own district Board of Education President, it has been exhilarating to realize that speaking up can make a difference for Every Child with One.Voice as we work together to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Helen Hoffman

As the 125th Annual NYS PTA Convention approaches, I can’t help but think of my first NYS PTA Convention, which was the 100th birthday celebration of PTA in the Catskills. What an exciting experience it was! Over 500 plus attendees coming together advocating on behalf of children and youth; learning about the programs available to benefit all children; and sharing ideas to help a young mom, like me, do what I can to support the students in my school. I was in awe of the women and men who sat as the leaders of this association. Honestly, I never thought I would have the opportunity to sit at that table to make a difference, lead the way or shine a light. As 1st VP of NYS PTA, I strive to do all those things and much more for all children and youth. I also serve as the Vice President on my local school board using the skills I have learned from PTA to support our children and youth.

My first experience with PTA was as a class parent. I was lucky enough to work in the evenings, so I volunteered my services, wherever needed – at book fairs, holiday craft fairs, teacher recognition luncheons, etc. I remember one of the members talking about this great PARP Conference she attended and she wanted to start a PARP program in our school. Parents as Reading Partners, it was called at that time, was a program which encouraged parents/guardians to read with their children. Being able to provide this type of program to our students was very exciting and greatly needed. And yes, I was willing to put on a silly character costume to make the student’s experience even better. Our school participated in all that PTA had to offer to support students. I started attending regional training and conferences to learn more about all the programs offered and their advocacy efforts. Personally, my advocacy voice became loud when the Commissioner’s Regulation Part 100.11 was changed requiring parents and teachers to have a seat at the table where school building and district decisions were being made. I made sure I attended school board meetings and volunteered to be on these committees. I still sit on my high school district’s Safety Committee Team as their parent representative.

When I think about it, because of the training I have received from PTA, I have actually served in one or more of every PTA position from the unit/council/region levels to the State level throughout my years in PTA. I now give workshops on treasury, membership, programs, awards, effective meetings, etc. that once made a difference to me through my PTA journey. I am a proud member of many units over the years, especially Empire State PTSA since 2008. I also proudly served as treasurer and secretary for Empire State PTSA around that time. When asked “Why PTA?” I say “Why NOT PTA?”

https://www.pta.org/home/programs/Connect-for-RespectBullying
PTA has been at the forefront of some of the most important issues facing our children. Each year at Convention we reaffirm our commitment to advocacy and do the work of the association. But this is just the stepping-off point. As members, we need to continue our advocacy efforts by sharing our viewpoint via social media, through PTA meetings, speaking with school administrators, and by face-to-face (or Zoom) contact with legislators & education stakeholders.

Familiarize yourself with advocacy campaigns, position statements/papers, and resolutions on local, state and federal levels. Our advocacy is year-round. Raise your voice!

Here are several resources to assist you in your advocacy:

NYS PTA Advocacy Guide:
https://nyspta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy_tools/advocacy-guide/

NYS PTA Resource Guide, Advocacy section:

NYS PTA Where We Stand (adopted Resolutions):

NYS PTA 2020 adopted resolutions & historical resolutions:
https://nyspta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-legislative-program/resolutions/

NYS PTA Position Papers:
https://nyspta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-legislative-program/position-papers/

National PTA Advocacy page – Resolutions and Position Statements:
https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions

National PTA Advocacy Toolkit:
https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-resources/Advocacy-Toolkit

National PTA Advocacy Resolutions Toolkit:
https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-resources/PTA-Resolutions-Toolkit

National PTA Advocacy Resources:
https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-resources

Patrice Rachlin
NYS PTA Resolutions Coordinator
National PTA Resolutions Committee

NYS PTA
125th Annual Convention
Celebrate and Advocate!
Virtual Attendance Registration is Open Until November 12th
Be a part of electing our State officers, vote on this year’s Resolutions, hear inspirational speakers, and learn, share, grow, in your role as a PTA member!

Register Here!
## ESPTSA FINANCIALS

### ESPTSA Treasurer Report Fiscal Year 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Proposed 2021-2022</th>
<th>Starting Balance 7/1/2021</th>
<th>Q1 Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>160 members @$6</td>
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<td>$ 486.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pins purchased</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<tr>
<td>Gift Memberships for staff ($)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Muriel Burke Service Award</td>
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<td>Award plate Engraving</td>
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<td>Supplies/Postage</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>Muriel Burke Service Award</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supplies - Gavel</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$ 57.41</td>
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**Budgeted closing balance**  $ 4,971.14

**Closing Balance 9/30/2021**  $ 4,854.73

Note: Income for "early" 2021-22 membership purchases and donations prior to 6/30/2021 was deferred to 7/1/2021.

Note: $500 held in reserve for past Muriel Burke awardees to attend a NYS PTA event.

We are excited to announce that as of Oct. 31 we have 114 members, about 65% of our goal of 175 members. We are also excited that 41 of you have signed up for the Empire Breakfast at convention! We would love to report that we have at least 125 members at the time of our annual meeting to celebrate 125 years of PTA. Please help us reach our goal! If you were a member last year and have not joined, please sign-up on November 10th, The Great PTA Sign Up Day! We aren't Empire Strong without your membership!
TADA! OUR PLUS ONES!

Jackie & Paul Wilson

Patrice Rachlin & Bob Zazzer

Lori Fontana & daughter Jessica

Neil & Marianne Johanning

Beth Sniffen & daughter Nicole

Beth Sniffen & son Daniel

Renee Daniels & son Mathieu Schram

Helen & Danny Hoffman

We want to see your picture here!

Who is your Plus One?

everychild.onevoice.
SHINING A LIGHT ON LEGISLATION

THE ROAD TO THE NYS PTA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

The NYS PTA Legislative Summit is designed to bring PTA members together. We build advocacy skills and train on the issues being addressed with our elected officials during Lobby Day visits and legislative sessions. Lobby Day is designed to provide our members with a day of putting advocacy into action, speaking with, and educating legislators and decision makers on the issues that we have prioritized. But how are these issues chosen?

Every year at the NYS PTA convention, the membership votes on proposed changes and new resolutions. These resolutions provide positions for NYS PTA to take on important issues that affect our youth, families, and schools. And these issues help to guide our legislative priorities for the coming Leg Summit and Lobby Day.

Lobby Day is an opportunity to build the relationship between you and your local elected official, to make personal connections, and to strengthen the partnership between NYS PTA and the NYS Assembly and Senate. The road to Leg Summit begins with the voices of our PTA leaders and with the issues that are important to our members.

Susan Fisher
NYS PTA Legislation Chair

NATIONAL PTA SHINING A LIGHT ON MENTAL HEALTH

National PTA announced today the launch of PTA’s Healthy Minds program which helps families prioritize and maintain their mental health. The program formalizes and builds on the association’s longstanding commitment to provide and advocate for enhanced mental health programs and services for children and families. National PTA is launching the program with support from Proud National PTA Sponsors The Allstate Foundation, CDC Foundation, GoGuardian and the New York Life Foundation. Please click on the link to share and help our members who may be struggling during these difficult times.

Whether in-person or virtually, we look forward to seeing you in Syracuse and advocating for all children with one voice!

#125