



NEW YORK

PARENT TEACHER **MARCH 2022**

A PUBLICATION OF THE NEW YORK STATE PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

A MESSAGE FROM

NYS PTA President

As I reflect on this past year, I am extremely pleased with all that we have accomplished. When choosing my theme, "Shining a Light on Every Child", it was with the empathy and compassion to really make a difference for all children and youth in New York State. As we move forward into the second year of my term, my dedication and commitment is that much stronger and even more passionate.

A year ago, I set several goals for myself, for our Governance Team and for all of our members.

1. To thank and reenergize our volunteers and renew their sense of "Why PTA?"

It has been a trying 18 months and it's been difficult, to say the least, supporting our students, schools, and communities in pandemic conditions. It's easy to lose sight of why we do what we do and who we do it for, yet through it all, our NYS PTA leaders and volunteers did amazing things for children. Through it all, we must remember our WHY... It's about the children... Yours, mine, ours, and theirs. That's something that we must always keep in the forefront of our minds. It's something we that we can never forget.

2. To restore regular communication and inclusivity

The pandemic forced us to gather and communicate in different ways and to think out of the box. And here we are now, all experts in the art of zoom. By tuning into each other in our homes, and sometimes even in our PJs, meetings became more personal and pleasant again. Not nearly as perfect as being together in person, but at least we found a way to make it work.

3. To support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives and programs at the unit, council, region, and state board levels and ensure diversity among PTA leaders in support of ALL children.

This became the true focus of our work this year and our ongoing commitment is strong. We are a work in progress, always learning and growing, and we have been partaking in dedicated workshops and trainings all year long. It has been a positive experience that has us looking through new and differing lenses.

4. To provide continued leadership development for the Executive Committee, Governance Team, Region Leaders, and all members throughout the year.

Our Leadership Development team strives very hard to create interesting and informative virtual workshops and webinars on a wide variety of topics. These virtual presentations have been a huge success, with great numbers of participants.

5. To embrace the power of positivity to heal and rebuild trust and morale on the Governance Team.

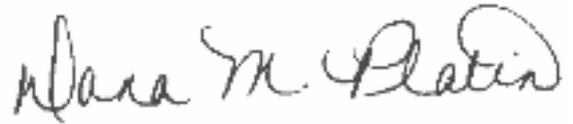
As can happen on any PTA board, we all felt burdened, overworked, and weren't always in sync. A global pandemic can sure challenge the best of us! Yet with a boost of enthusiasm and energy, and a renewed mindset, we are working as hard as ever, and we are enjoying what we do again. And we very much enjoy working TOGETHER as a team again! We have re-found our sense of family and community.



In addition to these important goals, NYS PTA continues to advocate on pressing issues and topics, and we strongly support the many arts and awards programs, such as Reflections, PARP, special recognitions, and scholarships. Our membership numbers have seen a huge boost this year and we really crushed our goal during the "Great PTA Sign Up Day"!

Lastly, we continue to have a seat at the table with the Governor's office and at the State Education Department. I have monthly zoom meetings with Dr. Betty Rosa, NYS Commissioner of Education, and her team, and I recently participated in a zoom meeting with Governor Hochul to discuss critical issues facing our children and our schools.

As your president, I couldn't be any prouder of or more delighted for all we do, and I'm excited for the many more successes and achievements we will accomplish together.



Dana M. Platin, NYS PTA President



125 years is BIG

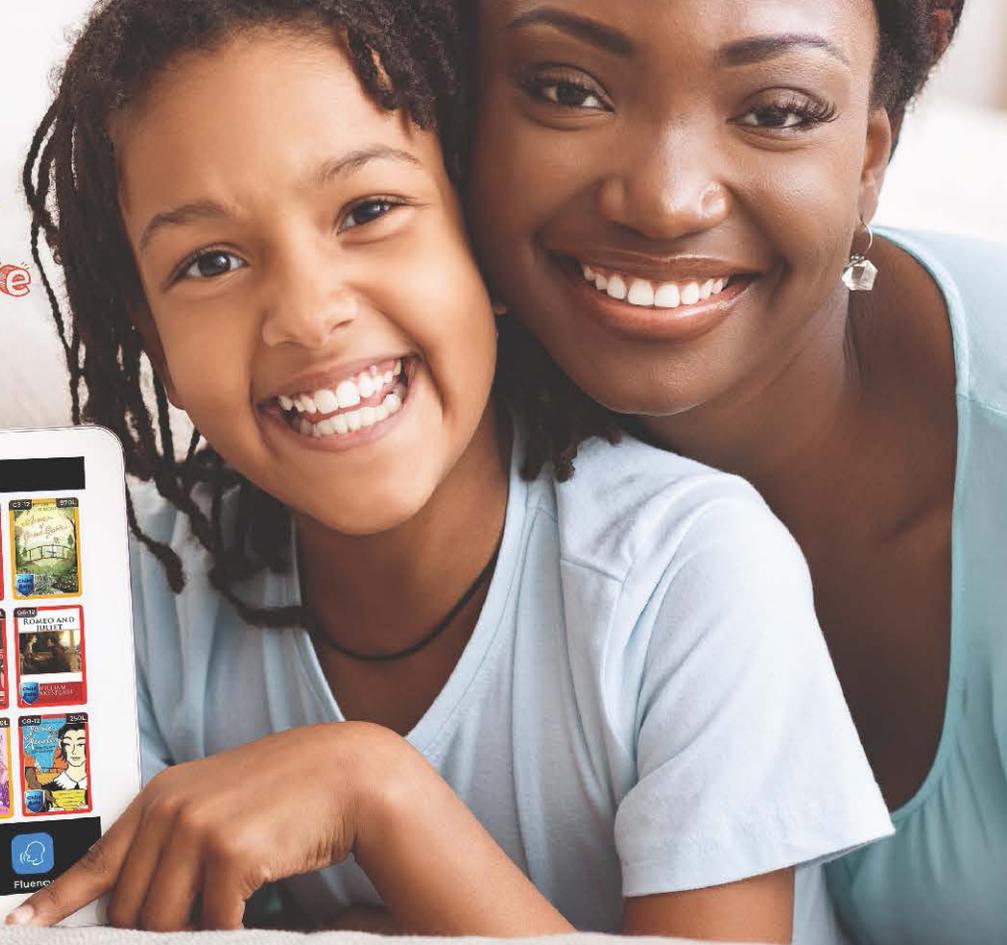
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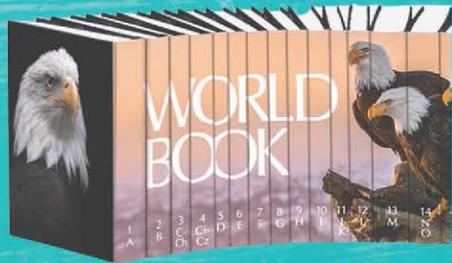
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LEND YOUR VOICE

PATRICE RACHLIN, NYS PTA RESOLUTIONS COORDINATOR

Will you be part of the conversation?

The pandemic has stretched on longer than we imagined & so much in our lives is uncertain and changed. As I look to the future, I visualize parents, families, educators, school district staff, and communities creating healthy and safe school settings that ensure our students' social, emotional, physical, and academic development. We all need to be part of that conversation and have a seat at the table. **Lend your voice** to the conversation!

For me, serving on PTA is how I **lend my voice**, but not everyone needs to serve. Just by joining PTA, you become an integral part of the nation's largest children's advocacy association. Your membership sustains a multitude of PTA initiatives and advocacy efforts.

Want to do more?

Lend your voice! There are many avenues within PTA to volunteer and be part of the conversation.

- Participate in NYS PTA [Take Action](#) Today email requests.
- Offer your talent and expertise to assist your local PTA, region PTA, or NYS PTA.
- Attend local, regional, and state training/[workshops](#)/conferences.
- Attend local, regional, and state Legislative events ([Legislative Summit](#)) ... or even organize one!
- Write a resolution and submit to NYS PTA by 4/1/2022 for consideration.
- Check out the NYS PTA website for Tool Kits, events, [workshops](#), Covid19 Guidance, the [Resource Guide](#) & much more.
- Nominate your fellow PTA volunteers for [awards](#).

Perhaps you will find yourself advocating for safe and nurturing environments or [parent and family engagement](#) or public school funding. NYS PTA [Legislative Priorities](#), NYS PTA [Basic Policy](#), [2021 Adopted Resolutions](#), [2020 Adopted Resolutions](#), and [2019 Adopted Resolutions](#) are extremely useful documents that you or your unit can use as a guide or platform.

So, lend your voice, join the conversation and through our Collaboration, Commitment, Accountability, Respect, Inclusivity, & Integrity we can continue "Shining a Light on Every Child".

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Warm Welcomes!

Tips for welcoming - and engaging - newly registered families

By Lissa Zukoff, NYS PTA Family Engagement Coordinator

It feels like we just got into the swing of this school year - how are we already planning for the next one? School registration for 2022-2023 has officially kicked off, bringing with it plenty of opportunities to connect with our school community. Below are five ways you can partner with your school district to support and welcome new families.

1) School Registration - Be a smiling face to welcome new families

Work with the other PTAs in your district to have a PTA presence at in-person registrations. Ask the district if they will include PTA fliers in the school welcome packets. These fliers are a great opportunity to introduce your PTA so be sure to include contact and membership information, as well as links to social media, so people can get to know you and all of the great work you do! If the school registration is virtual, be sure your flier has live links for ease of use. Consider adding a Google Form link to your welcome, for anyone who has additional questions or would like to speak to a PTA representative.

2) Kindergarten Orientation/ Screening - Share your knowledge & love of the school

Ask to be a part of any new parent orientations. Talk about some of your school traditions, introduce yourself, and give out an email address for families if they have any further questions. If the children are shown around the school - help lead the tours. While adults are engaged in a presentation, make a craft with the children. Provide some crayons and coloring pages for younger siblings who have come along.

3) Special Education Transition Information- SEPTA provides essential support

As children transition from preschool special education services and into school-aged special education services, many districts hold an informational district-wide meeting to share a general idea of what to expect. It can be an especially nerve-wracking time, someone who has been through the process can provide essential guidance and support to incoming families. In addition to making a connection and sharing contact information for SEPTA leadership, encourage parents to start attending SEPTA Meetings this school year, many of the topics discussed will help prepare them for the transition. If your district does not already have a meeting to discuss what is involved in the transition from CPSE to CSE, advocate for starting one.

4) Bitmoji Classroom - a fun and warm way to share information

Set up a bitmoji classroom with links to essential information like: social media, school/PTA/SEPTA websites, snow day information, email contacts, fliers, memberhub. It can be easily updated through the year, and is an engaging landing page for new, prospective, and current families.

5) Welcome Wagon - Families don't just register for school in September

Have a Welcome Wagon Committee so you are ready to go when new families join. Ask the principal to let you know if there is a new entrant and reach out to them. Offer to connect them with a parent in their child's grade - Class Captains can be a great resource for this (be sure to get permission from the family before giving out their contact information). Share recent fliers, a calendar of events, and perhaps some PTA swag! Ask a local restaurant if they will donate a gift card and include that in their welcome package. Personally invite them to attend your next PTA Meeting.

The past few years have been challenging, with limited opportunities to participate in in-person events. As you focus on new registrants, please consider reaching out to families who started in your school over the past two years as well. They may be eager for a chance to connect (or reconnect!) with you.

What does your school do to welcome new entrants? I'd love to know! Please email me at family.engagement@nyspta.org with all of your great ideas.





NEW YORK STATE PRIDE PTSA

Interest Form

We are thrilled to launch the first in the nation Statewide LGBTQ+ NYS PTA Unit to support students, educators, parents and families!

Do you know someone who might want to volunteer? Who has some extra time to support our LGBTQ+ students? Who wants to work on new programs or advocate? Then please pass on this info!

And just like your unit in your school building, this statewide unit needs dedicated leaders in officer positions - President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer.

[Here](#) is the nominating form to apply to be an officer!

Time is running short, so don't delay in nominating someone, or passing on this email to someone who you think might be interested.

As always, thanks for all you do to support children!

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By Patty Frazier, Treasurer and Jane Harsha, Immediate Past President

Exactly 125 years ago --in February 1897-- over 2000 volunteers (mainly women) gathered in Washington, DC to discuss "questions most vital to the welfare of children." On Feb. 17 they voted to establish a National Congress of Mothers (National PTA) with the mission of bettering all aspects of children's lives in home, school, and community. The founding of PTA was an act of empowerment for women denied the right to vote or hold elected office - an assertion of their power to use volunteer advocacy to bring about essential changes in the lives of the truly powerless, children.

Two days after the National Congress was formed, New York delegates met and moved to establish the New York State Organization of Mothers, the first and oldest state PTA. By the fall of 1897 the NYS Congress had held its first convention, electing officers, adopting a constitution,

and creating various committees to foster parent education, home-school cooperation, and child-centered reforms. These leaders were forward-thinking, advocating for sex education before puberty in 1898! As far back as 1899 PTA was petitioning Congress on health and juvenile justice issues, and in 1903 it launched a letter campaign to endorse juvenile court reforms. The PTA record of bold advocacy for children and youth was well on its way!

When we reflect on NYS PTA's legacy of successful advocacy, we can pick out three threads that have run through our efforts for 125 years. The first is that we are a mission driven organization, and rooting our advocacy in that mission, guided as well by our PTA purposes, beliefs and values, gives

"Our position has always been that parents and families have the primary responsibility for the health of their children."

us the firm basis and clear direction to take action on almost any issue. (Read these documents at <https://nyspta.org/home/about/values-mission-vision/>)

The second thread is our collaboration with

government, preK-12 and higher education, community groups, and a wide variety of organizations with compatible goals and values. Our founders knew that to succeed they would need a seat at the table where decisions were made. They worked to form good working relationships with potential partners like Gov. Teddy Roosevelt that could enhance the scope and impact of PTA's advocacy, as we continue to do today.

The third thread is our process for adopting positions and training volunteer advocates. Since the 1890's PTA has developed a pattern of identifying a topic of interest or concern; conducting thorough research and study of the topic; combining that knowledge with our policies and resolutions to craft an advocacy position; educating our members on the topic; and finally training volunteers to advocate effectively to relevant law and policy makers. Our methods for educating and empowering PTA members may be so familiar that we don't appreciate how very successful they are.

Many of the issues and initiatives that exemplify our legacy remain relevant today. Through the dedicated efforts of our volunteers at all levels, NYS PTA continues to support parents, families, and communities in key areas like healthy lifestyles, mental health, and juvenile protection.

Our position has always been that parents and families have the primary responsibility for the health of their children. With this



belief we have actively sought input beginning as early as 1899 with a survey sent to parents. Among the issues the survey addressed were school lunches and the proper amount of sleep and exercise. Initiatives advanced in the past 125 years have often been preventative health measures, notably poor nutrition and the harmful effects of tobacco use by minors.

During the COVID crisis, we assisted families with finding local food sources and supported the continuation of the free school lunch program. Having made great strides in combatting tobacco access and use, in recent years we have applied the same advocacy to stem the rise of vaping. Other health areas that we lent our voices to are pre-natal care and free maternity wards to fight infant mortality, and screenings for vision, hearing, and scoliosis.

As early as 1925, NYS PTA worked in partnership with the State Department of Health to address the mental health needs of our children. This led to a year-long project by NYS PTA directed at improving mental hygiene. Emotional health entered the conversation in 1969-71 when NYS PTA conducted a three-year project

emphasizing children's emotional health. This resulted in the governor's establishing a Committee for Children. A review of our recent PTA workshops and webinars shows the increase in resources related to mental health and social and emotional learning. A central focus of this year's NYS PTA Lobby Day will be student mental health needs and services.

“PTA was founded by those who were willing to push past barriers and take the necessary actions to change the lives of children.”

PTA was founded by those who were willing to push past barriers and take the necessary actions to change the lives of children. One such drive has been PTA's activism for juvenile protection. From 1903 when NYS PTA urged members to call for the reform of youth courts and child labor laws to our recent push for Raise the Age (of criminal responsibility) legislation,

our juvenile justice efforts have centered around age-appropriate services, treatment, intervention, and education of minors.

A key area of juvenile protection has been limiting children's exposure to inappropriate media content. From the supervision of vaudeville shows and films to action against unwholesome comics, television shows and cigarette advertising to the need for internet safety for the everchanging social media platforms children and youth can access, we have been steadfast in seeking legislation to protect youth and providing guidance to families.

From its work for a long overdue prohibition of corporal punishment in schools (1985!) to its encouragement of the use of restorative justice practices, NYS PTA has demonstrated its ability to challenge the status quo in its mission-driven commitment to our children. Our legacy of achievement should be a source of pride and inspiration as we tackle today's issues of physical and mental health crises and social/political divisions. Like our founders, we know we can better the world for children and youth when we advocate for each of them with one voice.



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What does one voice for every child look like?

Every child deserves to have someone who believes in them. Every child, one voice means we advocate for students and the specific needs required in order for them to thrive. Advocacy does not have to be a grand gesture. It is the cumulative, small steps that you can take to make a change to help someone else. So what does one voice for every child look like?

The best way to understand the needs of our youth is to listen to them. This shows them that you care about their well-being and their success. Each population of students is unique, even if they have overlap, so listen to them, ask questions that help you learn what their needs are, and will provide you with the information that you need to advocate for them. Just remember that all kids benefit from having the adults in their lives listen to and validate their feelings.

Encourage our youth to value not only themselves as unique and worthwhile people but others as well. Being a voice for every child means working to create a culture where everyone not only has access to the same opportunities, but feels respected, valued, and encouraged to pursue them. Recognize that everyone has something to offer. Research has shown that kids who have a diverse set of friendships will not only be more accepting of others but also are less likely to be bullied because they have learned to get along with a diverse group of people.

And sometimes, doing what's best for others means stepping out of our comfort zones and engaging the public and other stakeholders. It's important to listen and have conversations with people who agree with you but even more important to listen to the people who don't. Being a voice means also listening and learning and understanding. One voice for every child looks like love and compassion and being a champion for those who need us.

*Susan Fisher,
NYS PTA Legislation
Coordinator*

BYLAWS

PAT ASSORTATO, NYS PTA BYLAWS COORDINATOR

Bylaws are designed to help an organization function in an orderly manner. Your bylaws include all the rules by which your PTA operates. Every member of the board should have a copy of the bylaws and be familiar with them.

As the Nominating & Election season approaches, it is extremely important to be sure that your Bylaws are up to date and reflect the correct details of the process for your unit.

In ARTICLE VII - OFFICERS AND THEIR ELECTION you will find:

1. Officers to be elected - You may have any number of officers necessary to carry on the work of the unit, but the number of officers and their titles must be specified in the bylaws. However, keep in mind that the number of officers will affect the number required in determining the quorum needed to conduct business at a meeting.
2. When the election is to be held.
3. Election of the nominating committee - At least one of the elected members of the nominating committee must be from the general membership, and not the executive board. Members of the nominating committee may not be barred from becoming nominees for office.
4. Who may be nominated - The nominating committee nominates one person for each office. It is the nominating committee's responsibility to nominate the best qualified nominee for each office.
5. Voting process - If there is only one nominee for each office, PTA bylaws provide for a voice vote. When there is more than one nominee for an office, PTA bylaws require a ballot vote.
6. Term of office & when term begins.

If you find that your Bylaws have expired, detailed instructions to update bylaws can be found in the New York State PTA Resource Guide or in the Bylaws/Procedures link on the NYS PTA website www.nyspta.org under the Leaders tab.

If you need assistance, reach out to your Region Bylaws Chair or Region Director. They are more than willing to help you.

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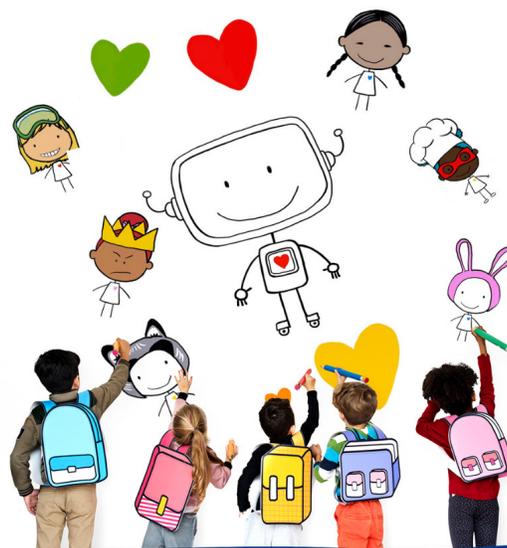
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SHINING A LIGHT ON 125 YEARS OF PTA

Carrying the legacy for the next 125

The New York State PTA Membership Team

This year February 17th, known as Founder's Day, marked PTA's 125th Anniversary! How amazing is it to be part of this longstanding history of speaking on behalf of and advocating for children and families?! The event was marked by a "125th Jubilee" during which NYS PTA honored its founders, Phoebe Apperson Hearst, Alice McLellan Birney and Selena Sloan Butler, taking the time to reflect and take pride in PTA's achievements while challenging current PTA members to continue the important work of their predecessors and to find their +One!

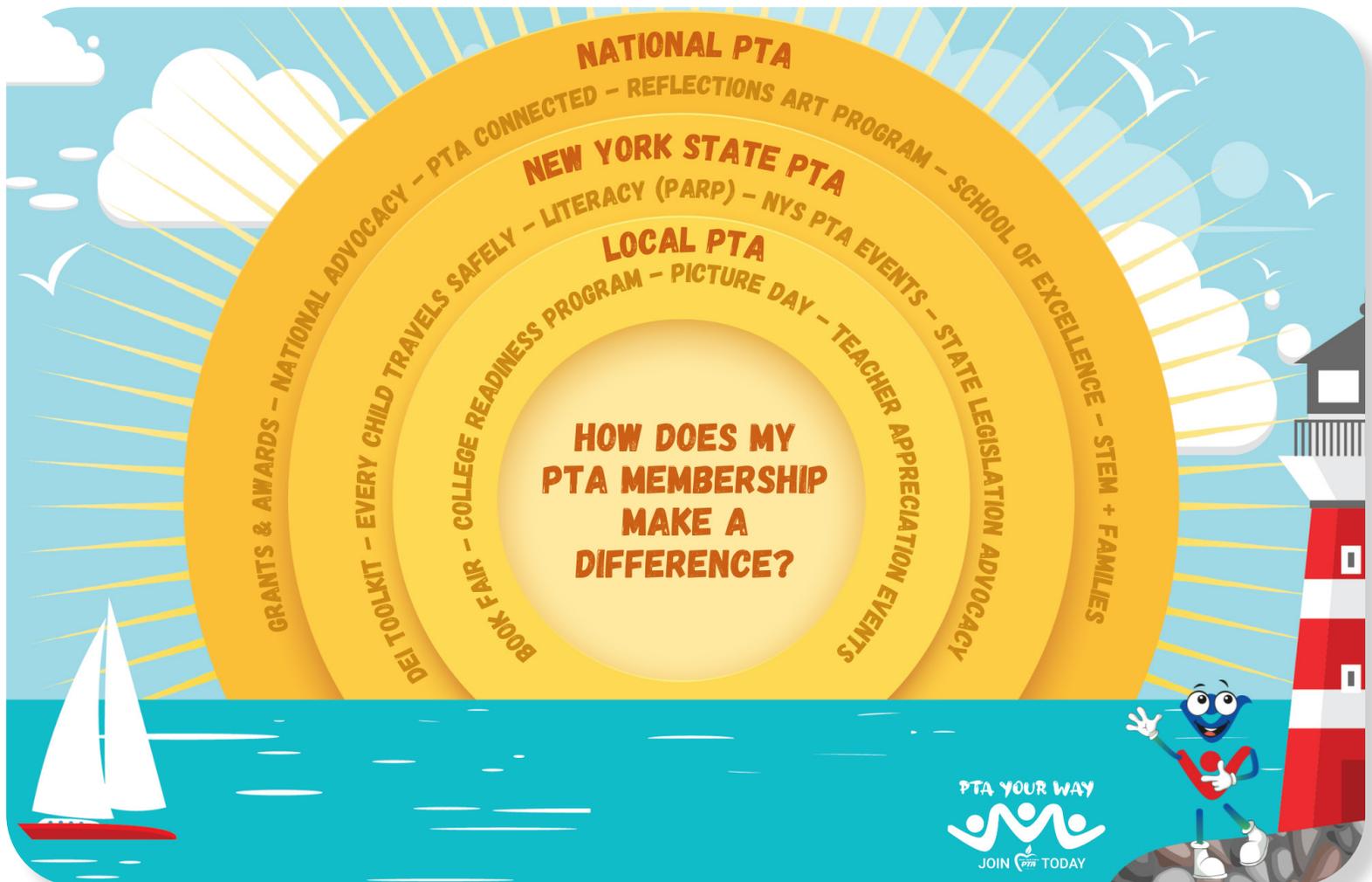
As we celebrate this special milestone,

we realize the great value of each and every PTA volunteer's contributions in their individual unit, school and community without which, PTA would not be the powerful voice for all children, the relevant resource for families and communities, and the strong advocate for public education it is today.

Our Grassroots... Our Rays of Sunshine

Consider every program your local PTA unit brings to the children in your school, every family event, and every positive change it influences as another ray of sunshine. We encourage you, our PTA leaders, to bring

to light the important work you do in your school and community, especially during the current times when bridging between school and families has been most critical. Ask your school community to support your work through becoming PTA members. Explain to them how their membership dues help support all the valuable programs your PTA brings to the children: the author visit, book fair, family fun night, cultural event, talent show, fall festival, teacher appreciation and the list goes on. Their dues also support your local, regional, state and national PTA programs as well as strengthens their advocacy voice on behalf of ALL children.



"Within you is the light of a thousand suns." - Robert Adams

Thank you to all PTA volunteers for all you do every day in your school and community. Thank you to every PTA member for your support to your local unit and to PTA's mission making EVERY child's potential a reality.

Your memberships have strengthened PTA's advocacy voice most recently making the following possible:

NY State Legislature passed a bill to [Improve School Drinking Water Safety](#) reducing lead levels from 15 to 5 ppb.

The NY State 2022-2023 proposed Executive Budget includes full funding of [Foundation Aid for public schools](#).

Support expanding School Meal Program to include all children during the pandemic and Summer food serving program. Continuing to advocate for a [Universal Meal Program for ALL Children](#).

NY State Governor signed a bill to [Expand List of Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water](#) including PFOS and PFOA.

Your membership dues make the following programs and awards from NY State PTA and National PTA possible:

New York State PTA offers the following [Awards](#) to students, teachers and PTAs.

National PTA offers the following [Programs](#) and [Awards](#).

For membership related support or questions, contact the NY State PTA membership team at membership@nyspta.org

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THE POWER OF THE POSITIVE

By Megan Zarchy, NYS PTA Education Specialist

I could not believe what was happening on the tiny screen of my iPhone. My son's beloved school nurse, in the middle of a controversy on a local Facebook parents group over a simple miscommunication. Numerous attempts were made to suppress the anger in the post, to no avail. I knew that this was not going to end well the next morning for the nurse, and it saddened me.

Does this sound familiar? This situation plays out almost daily over social media, where it is very easy to garner an audience willing to throw more kindling into the pile. And it is easy to give into the temptation of instant gratification, to become another voice shouting into the crowded Facebook arena.

As parents, we often find ourselves communicating with -- or about -- schools when something negative happens. But what would happen if we stopped to recognize the good more often?



In my "day job," a middle school orchestra/general music teacher, this is one of my favorite motivational tools in my chest. Sometimes, that student who loves being in your class but may not be the "first chair" musician deserves a bit of recognition for being kind, respectful, diligent, responsible...you name it! All it takes is five minutes, three or four sentences, a left click of a mouse, and done. As you can imagine, the response from parents and families is overwhelming -- especially during this particularly challenging year. I can see that student's head being held slightly higher the next time they step into my classroom. That little bit of recognition makes a world of difference in a child's life, and all it

took was a few sentences and a few minutes during a prep period to move mountains. (I think we can all agree that every child deserves that "light" to shine on them every once in a while.)

The way that I am the best advocate for my orchestra program is by recognizing the young people who make up my program, no matter how minute their contribution may seem. This could very well be the only time they receive any kind of praise during a school year! Recruitment, building a "bench," engaging repertoire, retention... all of these things will not happen if I don't take the time to take care of the students who come to play a string instrument in my room.



In my role as a public school parent, how can I apply this from the parent perspective in a way that allows me to be a strong advocate? Circling back to the nurse situation, I knew that a more powerful response to the negativity being posted on social media was necessary. I could very easily sing her praises in the comments section of the negative post, as many other parents were,



to help ease the tension. However, the likelihood of her seeing these positive notes was minimal. Considering that the nurse's Wednesday was about to start off sour thanks to a rant on social media, my response was simple -- break out the computer and start writing a glowing email about her to the building principal and the superintendent. I made sure to copy her on this so that she knew how much she was appreciated. Once

again, the response was overwhelming -- the response I received in return from the nurse certainly left me sobbing into my lunch in the faculty room that afternoon. Taking a moment to be the nurse's advocate in the face of certain adversity with a few keystrokes means that my children now have an advocate for life in their primary school nurse.



Sometimes, the first step to effective advocacy is as simple as making sure somebody knows that they are appreciated. A few simple sentences go a long way.

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Literacy

By Mary McNamara, NYS PTA Literacy Specialist

As we are now in the third quarter of our school year it's time to remind you if you plan to send in a PARP application that the deadline this year is May 15 for your applications to be postmarked or emailed to your Region Directors. Please consider applying for an award if your unit held a PARP program this year as we have revised our awards and we would love to see all the wonderful and creative ideas and programs you have run in your schools.

March is National Reading Month what better time to celebrate literacy than with some fun programs. Some of the highlights of the month are Read Across America Day on March 2nd, as well as Dr. Seuss's Birthday on the 2nd. World Storytelling Day is March 20th which can be used to encourage all of us to share our stories or create new ones. April is School Library Month, a great time to

highlight our school libraries and on April 4th it's National School Librarian Day, so thank your Librarians for all they do. It also should be mentioned that April 2nd is both International Children's Book Day, as well as National Children's Picture Book Day. As you can see, there are many opportunities to shine a spotlight on literacy every month. You can find a 2022 calendar of many of the literary dates throughout the year [here](#).

If you haven't seen the Financial Literacy webinars which NYS PTA worked with Mountain America Credit Union to create, now's a great time. There are financial tips for all ages as well as the Banzai game which has age-appropriate levels for students of all ages to learn financial skills. Also included in the series of webinars are tips to avoid fraud. To check out this great resource you can find the Financial Literacy section on the NYS PTA webpage [here](#).



REFLECTIONS®

For over 50 years, students of all grades and abilities have been expressing their hopes, their feelings, and their worlds by telling their unique stories through the arts in PTA's Reflections Program. Students interpret a theme and create imaginative works of art in the areas of dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts.

This year, students reflected on the theme, "I Will Change the World By...." NYS PTA received 481 entries from 11 Regions across all six Arts Categories! Our judges had the difficult task of selecting winners to advance to the National PTA level of competition, as well as selecting Award of Merit recipients. You can now view the full list of winners [HERE!](#) We look forward to celebrating all our winners later in the year and showcasing their artwork at Convention in November.

We are excited for next year's Reflections Program, whose theme, "Show Your Voice!", was submitted by New York's very own Jason Yevin of Salk/MacArthur PTSA. Thank you for your continued support of Reflections!



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The Art of Delegation

By Nicole Perretta, NYS PTA Leatherstocking Region Director

As we continue to move through this pandemic and society as a whole begins to open back up – you might find yourself with more opportunities to do events & run programs for the children in your schools. It's always good to remember that although we want to provide many enrichment opportunities for all students, no one has to undertake this monumental task alone.

To delegate is to entrust a task or responsibility to another person. This is a fundamental tenet of PTA work. Delegation makes everything easier, helps us share the load and helps us include new members! When we include others in our current decision making, it can also help with the sustainability of the unit as a whole. When our members feel valued and included, they tend to want to stick around and continue helping.

How does a PTA start the process of delegation? Ah, you must read two of my favorite documents of course – your bylaws and your procedures. (As an aside, if your unit does not have procedures, I highly recommend you start that process. More information can be found on that at nyspta.org.) These documents will tell you any pre-requisites needed to fill the roles you're

looking to fill. Once you have accomplished that, it is important that you clearly define the task and timeframes so that you can find the proper person for the task.

As you're thinking about the timelines of your task, think about and clearly define check-in points along the way to make sure everything stays on track. Once your executive board has identified the volunteer you think will do best, communicate these timelines to them so they have all the information they need to be successful.

Finding the proper person to fulfill a role requires your PTA's executive board to think about the strengths each individual volunteer has. If your PTA has someone that loves to design, maybe they can make a newsletter. If your PTA has someone that loves to create games and crafts – maybe they would be a good idea to run a family night. Personally, I like the behind the



scenes things like copying, stapling and organizing paperwork, so fret not, there are people for every task!

Don't be afraid to ask non-members to help you if they have a specific skillset your PTA would like to utilize. Including non-members in some of your planning and programs is a great way to get them to want to join your PTA and bring others in as well.

Once you have accomplished all of the above it's now time to let go and let your volunteer shine! This step allows for volunteers to really own their tasks and show what they can do.

Delegation can be hard. Very hard. The desire to have everything turn out perfectly and to make sure nothing falls through the cracks can be so strong that sharing the load seems impossible. However, no one can or should do this work alone. PTA is stronger when we include others and I encourage you to reach out to at least one additional member (or even better, a not-yet member) in the coming week. You might find someone willing to help with that program that's been tough to start or that yearbook that stubbornly won't take care of itself. Hey, you might even find someone who wants to copy and staple and organize paperwork!

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