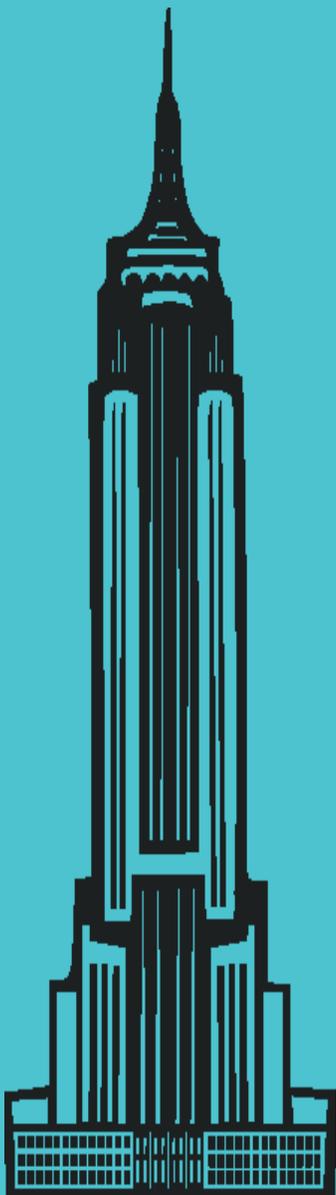


APRIL
2022

Empire State
PTSA
everychild.onevoice.



Advocating since 1979

From the President's Desk

As we continue to move through 2022, hopefully COVID has become a thing of the past as we navigate a new normal for us all.

Spring is indeed here, (YEAH!) and better weather ahead as we move towards the conclusion of yet another difficult and challenging school year. All school personnel deserve our heartfelt thanks for all that they have done to help our students navigate through this ever changing pandemic. So much courage and determination on their part to continue to help our children and deliver to them the best educational experience possible. With two grandchildren in school, it has been a highly personal experience for my husband and I over these past two plus years, as I am sure it has for many of you. Having spent many years as a classroom teacher, I cannot stress enough the importance of keeping our children in school, and the fantastic role that all of the educational partners have had during these challenging times.

The NYS PTA held an incredibly successful Virtual Legislative Summit in February and followed up with virtual appointments with our state legislators to lobby for the important issues that affect our children and youth. Kudos to all of those who were responsible for the implementation of this summit and so many thanks go out to all of our members who attended the summit and were able to participate in meetings with our representatives. (See the summary from NYSPTA Legislative Coordinator, Susan Fisher).

A reminder that we are seeking nominations for our **Muriel Berk Service Award**. The information is in this newsletter. Any Empire State member can be nominated or self-nominate for this award which seeks to honor the memory of Muriel Berk, founder of the Empire State PTSA and which highlights the work of our members who continue to work for the welfare and benefit of our children through their leadership and commitment to the PTA. The deadline for submissions is **May 1st**.

Thanks to your generosity and our Founders' Day membership drive, we now have 167 members for the 21-22 year! We are well within reach of our goal of 175 members for this year. We have also featured some plus one pictures of our members with their plus ones. We are proud to celebrate our members, so if you have a plus one, please send a picture to me at esptsa.president@nyspta.org.

This month's "Shining a Light on our Members" features two long active members and current Empire State PTSA members who continue to work to support our children throughout the year. Thanks Helene and June for your continued work on behalf of our children and youth, and your membership in Empire State!

National PTA will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of their founding this June in the National Harbor in Maryland. It is sure to be a fantastic celebration of the many goals, accomplishments and all that we as PTAs continue to do for our children and youth. **Happy Birthday PTA!**

As always we welcome your comments and suggestions for our newsletter.

Happy Spring, on behalf of the executive committee, Laurie, Kelly, Neil and me.

Warm regards,
Jacqueline Wilson, President
Empire State PTSA

SHINING A LIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

Helene Goldsmith



I began my career as an elementary school teacher in Brooklyn.

After I got married in 1954, I moved to Hawaii where my husband, Lieutenant Jr. David was stationed for three years. While there, I attended college to finish my

Master's degree. Our daughter, Sue Ellen, was born there.

We bought a home in Syosset in 1957 and have lived there ever since.

When my daughter entered South Grove school, 60 years ago, I got involved with the South Grove PTA. For her graduation, I made a girl and boy graduate which was later used at my son, Harry's, graduation and thereafter at every graduation.

After holding several positions in the local PTA, I became involved in Nassau Region and was District Director from 1981-1984.

Years later Nassau Region presented me with an award. The following was the presenter's introduction of me:

"It is my pleasure this evening to present the NYS PTA Golden Award to someone who has continued their outstanding dedication and service to the children and schools in Nassau Region.

Besides being a caring wife, mother and grandmother, she has found the time to be a 30 plus year PTA member. As a Unit and Council President in her home schools where she also held executive and chair positions, she strived to make the education of children a rewarding one.

Our honoree has also served PTA as a member of NYS PTA in positions that included District Director, Associate Director, Committee Chair and Vice President. Outside of PTA she has served as a President of the Parliamentarian of Greater New York Unit and is presently President of LINY Chapter of AIP and secretary of the Lee Demeter Unit.

Currently serving as the Nassau Region PTA Parliamentarian I am proud to present the NYS PTA Golden Award to Helene Goldsmith."

In 2000 I became a Professional Registered Parliamentarian. For several years I mentored college students who were taking an Independent Study Course on Parliamentary Procedure.

In addition to being parliamentarian for Nassau Region since 1986, I am involved with three parliamentary groups. At 91 I am still quite active and love it. I tell younger women who ask me why I am still so involved that it is what keeps my mind active. I recommend they think about it when they are older.

June Innella



Growing up in Brooklyn in the early 50's, I recall wearing a small metal clasp that said PTA. Each year my Mom would give me an envelope and say, "Make sure you give this to your teacher." Yes, PTA was in New York City schools back then. Years later I became a teacher and labor leader. Wearing both hats allowed me the opportunity to understand each side of the issue, bring the issues to the forefront, and unite in advocating for all children and youth with one voice.

In 1976 I accepted a teaching position in Valley Stream, NY and immediately joined the Shaw PTA. The "T" in PTA meant together the parents and teachers were united in the decisions that effected the education of students. One day at lunch, a colleague invited me to come with her to the Valley Stream Council PTA meeting. She said I would learn so much from the programs they presented. With her urging, I went to the next meeting and became hooked.

In November of 1975, Public Law 94-142 was passed, and the education system had to seriously address the needs of our special education population. PTA advocated for the change. At that time there were approximately 8 million "handicapped" students in the United States, and more than half of these students were not receiving educational services that would enable them to have full equity of opportunity. Parents were frustrated, so along with a colleague, we founded the Valley Stream SEPTA in 1979. The meetings were jam packed with 100 parents at some meetings.

Although I am retired for six years, I continue to be an active member. I serve on the Nassau Region PTA Board as the Education Chairman and remain a delegate to Valley Stream Council representing Valley Stream SEPTA. It was NYS PTA Past President Sheila Cohen who recommended me to serve on the State board where I served in several chairmanships during my nine-year tenure.

Having 42 NYS PTA Conventions under my belt, I continue to be in awe of the dedication of PTA volunteers. After teaching for 43 years, I can vouch that no other group of individuals unify and work as hard as PTA volunteers. I urge you say yes to PTA, get involved and stay involved, attend conventions and events. The knowledge gained will empower you to continue to improve the educational environment for all our students. Together we will make a difference!

ESPTSA MEMBERSHIP

EMPIRE STATE PTSA

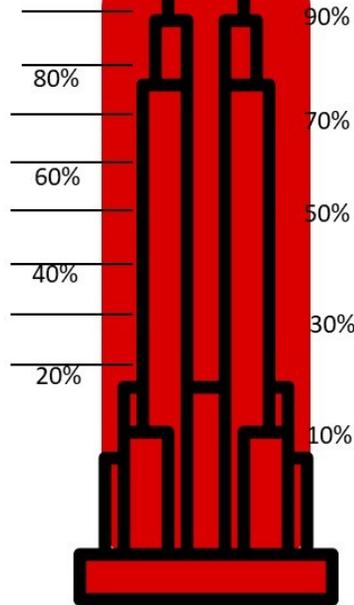
"Reaching New Heights!"



JOIN HERE!

**MEMBERSHIP
GOAL**

175 Members



We know three exceptional women who made history right here in the Empire State 125 years ago! Of course, we are talking about Alice, Phoebe and Selena!

In honor of these forward-thinking, trailblazing women, won't you please help us make our own history by meeting our goal of 175 members?

We are incredibly close (95%!) to meeting our goal and with your help, 2022 will be the year we reach new heights! We have 167 members, just 8 members to go! We can do it!

The young girls we advocate for today will be our trailblazing women of the future. Please support them and ALL children with an ESPTSA membership.

Join today, double the advocacy with a Plus One and send us a picture! **Support ESPTSA!**

OUR PLUS ONES!



Beth and Matt Sniffen



David and Janet Stegges



**Tammy Gamble's
daughter Brittany**



**Jackie Wilson and her daughters
Jessica and Cheryl**



SHINING A LIGHT ON THE NYS LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT



On February 16, 2022, NYS PTA held its 2nd virtual Legislative Summit. PTA leaders from across the state came together on a Wednesday evening to learn how to advocate and about the legislative priorities for NYS PTA. Participants were given a warm welcome by NYS PTA President Dana Platin, who expressed her excitement at seeing so many participants eager to participate in our advocacy work.

Commissioner Rosa and Senator Mayer gave inspiring speeches encouraging participants to continue their advocacy work and to be a voice for every child. They addressed the issues facing our schools, teachers, and students today and renewed their partnership to work with parents and PTA to support our students and families across New York state.

Vice President Helen Hoffman awarded Sydney Waldener the Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award. Sydney is an inspiring young woman and a wonderful youth advocate.

NYS PTA Executive Director Kyle Belokopitsky had a very informative and enlightening conversation with Dan Fuller, NYS Deputy Secretary for Education. He gave parents and members the most recent and accurate information regarding mandates, and COVID, and reassured our participants that our parent's voices are being heard. Kyle also mediated a wonderful conversation between Amy Hysick, NYS PTA Wellness Coordinator, Megan Zarchy, NYS PTA Education Coordinator, and Dr. Mary Yodis, Superintendent of Wynantskill School District. This conversation provided great health, wellness, education, parent, teacher, rural, and urban perspectives on the last two years and how to move forward.

The issue briefs on school aid, universal school meals, digital and tech equity, and school mental health were presented by the NYS PTA Advocacy team. Participants then took part in training sessions in breakout rooms broken down by region. They were trained on how to hold a meeting with a legislator. They reviewed how to prepare and plan for the meeting, and what the different meeting expectations, roles, and responsibilities are.

NYS PTA arranged virtual meetings between NYS Senate and Assembly members and their constituents between February 28th and March 11th. Members reviewed the NYS PTA legislative priorities with legislators and their representatives. This was a successful event and a great opportunity to further build the relationships between NYS PTA advocates and the legislators.

Susan Fisher
NYS PTA Legislation Coordinator



**SCHOOL BUDGET VOTE
AND
SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEE
ELECTIONS
TUESDAY, MAY 17TH!**



MURIEL BERK SERVICE AWARD

The kind of PTA commitment and leadership that led to the formation of the Empire State PTSA (ESPTSA) in 1979 through the work of a superb leader, Muriel Berk, then NYS PTA Membership Chair, serves as a model for us all. Her vision of how to strengthen PTA, coupled with her pursuit of this goal with constant passion, patience, and persistence, continues to serve as an excellent framework for action.

Therefore, on the occasion of the 35th Anniversary of ESPTSA in November 2014, the **Muriel Berk Service Award** was established and dedicated to the memory of this visionary leader so that her service will support the service of others into the future.

AWARD:

The recipient of this award will receive a one-time stipend not to exceed \$250, to be used for attendance whether in person or virtual, at a NYS PTA event. The award may be utilized by the recipient for the NYS PTA Convention, Summer Leadership Conference or Legislative Summit within the next five years. ***

Each year, the name of the recipient of the award will be engraved on the Muriel Berk Award Plaque located in the NYS PTA Office.



CRITERIA:

The recipient must:

- Be a current member of ESPTSA
- Have exhibited long standing PTA service
- Have been nominated by any ESPTSA member or may self-nominate.

SELECTION OF THE RECIPIENT:

Application shall be made through the submission of a one-page statement which states, at minimum, the following criteria:

- Why are you nominating this person for the award?
- What positions (i.e., offices, chairmanships) has the nominee held at the unit, council, region and/or state level?
- Why or how does this nominee's service to the PTA stand as a model to others?

HOW TO APPLY:

1. The one-page statement must be submitted to the President of the Empire State PTSA, via email to esptsa.president@nyspta.org and in the subject line place "Muriel Berk Award", no later than **May 1** of the award calendar year either by the nominee or another member.

2. Applications shall then be reviewed by the Muriel Berk Award Committee who will determine the final selection no later than **June 1** of the same calendar year.

3. Notification of the award will be made to the recipient by the Empire State PTSA President no later than **July 1**.

4. Please note that, according to the availability of ESPTSA funding, this award may not be given in every year. However, notice of the availability of the award will be made to the membership annually.

*****Proviso: For the years 2021 and 2022 ONLY, any past recipient of the Muriel Berk Award who has NOT yet used their stipend, shall be entitled to use it for attendance, either virtual or in-person at/for the 2021 or 2022 Convention.**

We are accepting nominating letters for the 2022 award. Please email your submission to: esptsa.president@nyspta.org by **MAY 1ST.**

ESPTSA FINANCIALS

ESPTSA Treasurer Report Fiscal Year 7/1/2021 - 6/30/2022					
Q3: 01/01/22 - 03/31/22					
Approved Budget 2021-2022			Q3 Activity		
Starting Balance 2021-2022		\$ 4,146.14	Starting Balance 01/01/2022		\$ 4,240.73
Revenue			Revenue		
160 members @\$6	\$ 960.00		Members = 21@\$6	\$ 126.00	
Donations	\$ 550.00		Donations	\$ 30.00	
Pins purchased	\$ 10.00		Pins purchased	\$ 5.00	
Total Revenue			Total Revenue		
		\$ 1,510.00			\$ 161.00
Expenses			Expenses		
Gift Memberships for st	\$ 28.00		Gift Memberships Staff		
Muriel Burke Service Av	\$ 1,250.00		Muriel Burke Service Award		
Award plate Engraving	\$ 15.00		Award plate Engraving		
Supplies/Postage	\$ 150.00		Supplies/Postage		
Total Expenses			Total Expenses		
		\$ 1,443.00			\$ -
Budgeted closing balance		\$ 4,213.14	Closing Balance 03/31/2022		\$ 4,401.73
<small>Note: 21x\$4=\$88 allocated to NYS PTA for State and National PTA dues portions.</small>					
<small>Note: \$1000 in reserves for Muriel Burke Award recipients.</small>					
<small>Note: We are reserarching a difference in membership between MemberHub and NYS records resulting in a \$12 balance difference.</small>					

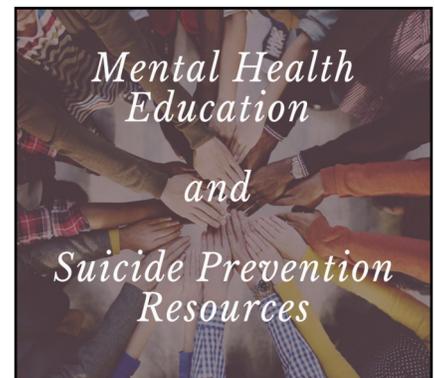
NYSED NEWS



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
 Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity

Important [guidance and resources](#) are available to help schools develop vital policies to identify students in mental health crisis, intervene effectively, and prevent suicide risks for students.

Pediatric mental health experts, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, recently declared pandemic-related decline in child and adolescent mental health a national emergency. The [Guide for Suicide Prevention for School Personnel](#) provides tools to help administrators, teachers, and school staff identify and react to students' anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation.



The Board of Regents unanimously re-elected Dr. Lester W. Young, Jr. and Josephine Victoria Finn to the posts of Chancellor and Vice Chancellor, respectively.

SHINING A LIGHT ON LEADERSHIP

Why Leadership Training?

A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader but becomes one by the equality of his actions and the integrity of his intent. —Douglas MacArthur

Many of us have experienced jobs that may require training throughout the year, or at periodic times during the course of our tenure with an organization. When it comes to advancement or obtaining a new position where you will take on a role of authority, you may need to begin a series of additional trainings in leadership and management.

So, too, with PTA. Every successful organization has to have well-trained members in order to function properly. As PTA members we speak for children and youth and believe in and fight for fair and equitable public education for all. We can only be successful if we believe in the structure of our organization and how it functions. This is why we ask our members to be trained in PTA practices and policies, informed on the issues that we need to address and how to address them, and prepared to step up to a leadership role. We should all, as members, be willing to learn and to help our PTA do its best for our children. Training is one of the ways that NYS PTA can assist you.

Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other. —John F. Kennedy

NYS PTA holds three major events during the year, each focused on training our current members and future PTA leaders. Legislative Summit – to help our PTA members become strong advocates and learn about the specific issues that are critical to the welfare of children and youth. We help our members learn how to work with and talk to our state officials about the need to enact laws and regulations that will protect our children and enhance their educational opportunities. Summer Leadership Conference - we offer a wide variety of workshops on topics from advocacy to diversity, as well as leadership, job-training, education, and specialized programs. NYS PTA Annual Convention – held in November, Convention includes workshop offerings and special programs. We also have the opportunity to hear from influential leaders in education. These conferences allow for attendees to network with other PTA members from across the state and share best practices and successes. In addition, NYS PTA presents monthly virtual webinars on a variety of topics. These webinars are offered free of charge to all PTA members.

Leaders will be those who empower others. —Bill Gates

Our children need the strength of our PTAs, and to ensure their continued success, we need members who are informed, educated in our mission and willing to step up to lead our organization.

Jacqueline Wilson, NYSPTA Leadership Training Specialist





SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

July 16-17, 2022
Crowne Plaza Albany-
Desmond Hotel

SAVE
THE
DATE

~THERE'S
NO PLACE
LIKE PTA~

