Every PTA Has a Friend: What the Region PTA Can Do for You

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NYS PTA 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.

PTA Values

- **Collaboration**: We work in partnership with a wide array of individuals and organizations to accomplish our agreed-upon goals.
- **Commitment**: We are dedicated to promoting children’s health, well-being and education success through strong parent, family and community involvement.
- **Accountability**: We acknowledge our obligations. We deliver on our promises.
- **Respect**: We value our colleagues and ourselves. We expect the same high quality of effort and thought from ourselves as we do from others.
- **Inclusivity**: We invite the stranger and welcome the newcomer. We value and seek input from as wide a spectrum of viewpoints and experiences as possible.
- **Integrity**: We act consistently with our beliefs. When we err, we acknowledge the mistake and seek to make amends.
Why Region PTA?

Region PTA is the administrative unit between NYS PTA and its local PTA units and councils. Over 1,400 PTA units are currently chartered to NYS PTA, with more units added each year. To provide effective support and assistance to all units, NYS PTA has divided the state into 12 geographical divisions or regions. Region PTA boards are comprised of experienced volunteers that have been or still are unit and council leaders.
Relationship to NYS PTA

The oak tree image symbolizes the relationship of NYS PTA with the Region PTAs and their local PTAs and Councils.

NYS PTA is the trunk that supports the oak; the Regions are branches that nurture the leaves- the local Units and Councils.
Map of the PTA Regions
(https://nyspta.org/home/about/contact/contacts-region-directors/)
Region Director Contact Information (2023-24)

- 04 — Central Hudson: Shauna Wold (includes Orange, Rockland and Sullivan Counties)
- 05 — Suffolk: Wendy Natalone (includes Suffolk County)
- 06 — Leatherstocking: Nick Gioppo (includes Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, part of Montgomery, Oneida, Oswego, St. Lawrence Counties)
- 07 — Genesee Valley: Tharaha Thavakumar (includes Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, part of Onondaga, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates Counties)
- 10 — Nassau: Sarah Henris (includes Nassau County)
- 11 — Niagara: Evonne Ostrozinski (includes Niagara, Orleans Counties)
Region Director Contact Information (2023-24)

- 12 — Northeastern: Jennifer Collazo
  (includes Albany, Clinton, Columbia, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Greene, part of Montgomery, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren, Washington Counties)
- 14 — South Central: Deawn Hersini
  (includes Allegany, Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins Counties)
- 15 — Southeastern: Val (Velida) Ford
  (includes Broome, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, part of Onondaga, Otsego, Tioga Counties)
- 17 — Taconic: Niki Cantalupo
  (includes Dutchess, Ulster, Northwest Putnam Counties)
- 18 — Westchester-East Putnam: Mary McNamara
  (includes Putnam, Westchester Counties)
- 19 — Western: Purnima Mohan
  (includes Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Genesee, Wyoming Counties)
Region PTA Responsibilities

• Interpret National and NYS PTA policies and procedures for units in their area.
• Voice unit/council interests and concerns to the NYS Executive Board and share information from State PTA with local PTAs.
• Work with units’ local issues and priorities and help to resolve problems within a PTA or its community.
Region PTA Responsibilities

• Provide leadership training through officer trainings, conferences, workshops and schools of instruction.

• Charter new units and train and support their leaders.

• Provide units assistance with bylaws, membership, filing of the 990 informational tax return to the IRS, and any other requirements to remain in good standing.
Who are the Region PTA Officers and Board Members?

- Region Director (RD)- an individual who is appointed by the NYS PTA Executive Committee to serve as the leader of a Region.
- The Executive Committee consists of the RD and the Associate Directors (AD), Secretary(s) and a Treasurer. These officers are elected each year at the Region’s Spring Conference.
- The ADs are the aides to the RD, and with the RD, the ADs are the advisors of the PTA unit leaders.
Region Board Members

• Each region has Committee Chairs that have NYS PTA counterparts such as Bylaws, Diversity, Membership, Special Education, Literacy/PARP, Arts/Reflections, Family Engagement, and Advocacy

• Optional region positions: Assistant Directors that assist the Associate Directors Council Presidents on region board

• Regions may recruit high school and college age Youth Members to sit on their boards.

• All NYS PTA officers, coordinators and specialists who live in a region are members of that region’s board.
Advocacy- Regions are Active

Advocacy does not only happen with NYS PTA and the Legislative Summit and Lobby Day. Each Region is active in Advocacy in its own way.

- Advocacy Events- Legislative Breakfast, Rally Days
- Advocacy Trainings
- Visits to local legislators
Unit/ Council Advocacy

If you have a local issue that you want to advocate for, you can contact your RD for assistance and advice.

Many Region PTAs have Family Engagement, Male Engagement, DEI, and Special Education chairs who assist units with more information or help with setting up your own committees.

Reach out to your RD for more information and chair contact information.
Arts Programs

- **Reflections** - Arts program from National PTA. Each Region PTA has a Reflections chair that is ready to assist in setting up a program in your school or district. Link to NYS PTA information: https://nyspta.org/home/programs/reflections/

- **PARP** - Pick A Reading Partner - the NYS PTA Literacy program “developed in 1978 by NYS Senator James Donovan, is a program that cements the necessary bond between the home and the school to encourage love of reading in our children.” Each region PTA has a PARP chair ready to assist your PTA to develop a program at your school. Link: https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and-recognitions/pick-reading-partner-program-award/
Region and NYS Awards

The following awards will have a Region winner and an overall NYS winner each year. The applications and deadlines for these and all NYS PTA awards are located at this link: https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/awards-and-recognitions/

• Leadership Award in Honor of Jane Skrzypek
• Pick A Reading Partner (PARP)
• Youth Humanitarian Award in Memory of Stanley Marcus

Each Region has their own awards. Contact your RD for more details.
Questions for You

• In what ways has your Region PTA helped you in the past?

• What issues has your PTA had that your Region PTA could have given you assistance?
Is the Region PTA for You??

• Are you interested in becoming a member of your Region PTA? Regions are always looking for new people and new ideas!

• Do you have a special area of interest?

• If you feel the current Region Board does not reflect the make up of the members, join the Region PTA to make your voice heard!
Questions??