Dear Presidents,

It’s hard to believe that we are already 8 weeks into the school year! Before you know it, we will be carving turkeys and getting ready for the holiday season!

Now that you have settled into your school year and have had one or two PTA meetings, it is time to start thinking about a few things. Here are a couple of questions for you to think about:

Who is your next unit/council president? Now is the time to start looking for the next leader of your PTA.

If you think you have found that leader, how is the next president being mentored to take on the position with confidence?

What are the goals you have set that you would like to accomplish and be remembered for and what is your plan to reach those goals?

Where are you looking for membership? Your school community is bigger than the walls of your school building. Think outside of the box! Everyone in your community should share in the responsibility of speaking for the health and welfare of our children. Ask your community to support the advocacy work of your PTA by becoming a member.

How inclusive is your PTA? Does it mirror the faces of the students in your school’s hallways? If it doesn’t, how can you make that happen?

The challenges of being a PTA president are many and at times may seem daunting. Share these questions and the challenges you face with your executive board. You will find that when you tap into the talents, resources, commitment and passion of your PTA volunteers, you will find the answers you are looking for and the support you will need to conquer any challenges that may come your way.

Don’t lose sight of the mission and purpose of PTA. It will guide you in your decisions and keep you focused on your role as advocates. Reach out to your Assistant Directors when you need help and support, attend training, refer to the NYS PTA Resource Guide and take advantage of the National, NYS and Nassau Region PTA websites. All offer a wealth of information.

Your PTA year is well underway, we wish you and your PTA much success in your efforts to speak for every child with one voice.

We look forward to seeing you at the Presidents-Principals Dinner on November 24th. Please be sure to attend the Presidents’ Rap on October 28th!

Warm regards,

Laurie
Treasury
Jeanette Meoli, Nassau Region Treasurer

Treasury Q and A

What a busy Fall it’s been and I’m so glad to have met so many of you at the Treasurer’s workshop at Officers Training in June, the Budget workshop in August, the Fall Conference Treasury and IRS workshops, and Presidents Rap in October! For those of you who haven’t been able to make it to our training, I have been sending out blast emails to all treasurers periodically to remind everyone of important deadlines and share some treasury tips and best practices. Here are three popular questions that have come up:

Taxes: yes, even though we don’t pay taxes, every unit must file a 990, 990-N or 990-EZ information return with the IRS every year. If you missed the November 15 deadline this year, contact me and we’ll get it sorted out. If your unit has had its 501(c)3 status revoked, please contact me or your AD and we’ll help you through the process to get reinstated. Please don’t answer any correspondence from IRS on your own without letting us know.

Sales Tax Exemption: the New York Exempt Organization Exempt Purchase Certificate (Form ST-119.1) should be in your unit files. If it is not, you will need to contact the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance directly at (518) 485-2889, as each unit is an independent agent with their own FEIN# and NYS Tax-Exempt#. They do not allow you to download the form—they want to speak with you before they send you one. Make copies of the blank form for your files before you complete it! Then you won’t have to call again. In order for a purchase to be exempt from sales tax, it must be paid for by the PTA (PTA check, cash or credit card - not personal check or credit card) and the ST-119.1 must be submitted at the time of purchase.

Sample Reports and Forms: the best place to start is the New York State PTA website – www.nyspta.org – in the Members Only section. Section 5 of the Resource Guide has sample vouchers, monthly and yearly reports, audit forms and much more. If you can’t find what you need there, visit the National PTA website’s Back-to-School Kit at http://www.ptakit.org. The Finance section is an

Ways and Means Expo
Marie Tuck, Nassau Region PTA Ways and Means Chair

This past May we hosted our annual Ways & Means Expo at the Woodbury Country Club. This year’s event saw an increase in the amount of vendors (a total of 49) with a wide variety of fundraising options, ranging from small items to sporting events and DJ’s. Fundraising options have come a long way from years ago. There are so many for your Fundraising Chairperson to review and I hope that this year’s Ways & Means Expo helped to make those decisions easier. We are looking forward to seeing you all at next year’s Ways & Means Expo on May 11th. We are excited to announce that the 2015 Spring Conference/Ways and Means Expo will be held at the Chateau Briand, centrally located and a beautiful venue, so save the date!
Bylaws Update
Dan Batik, Nassau Region Bylaws Chair

All units and councils must have PTA bylaws under which they operate. Bylaws must be updated every 3 years to keep your unit or council in good standing with the State and National PTA. Bylaws provide the structure and rules of your association. The Bylaws EZ process is more efficient and user friendly than in the past and takes less than 15 minutes to complete. No more hand written changes, mailing 7 copies and waiting up to 90 days to see if they are approved. To get started, please visit www.nyspta.org and click on the Bylaws EZ link.

After your membership vote, you will only need to send in the completed bylaws cover page, signed by the president and secretary and dated with the Membership Adoption date. The cover sheet is then mailed to your Region Bylaws Chair (RBC) who will review them and forward them electronically to the NYS PTA bylaws chair for approval.

Once approved, you will receive 2 hard copies of your bylaws along with an electronic copy in PDF format. This will enable you to share the approved bylaws with all of your members. All paid members are entitled to view the unit’s bylaws.

If you have questions about your bylaws, please contact your Assistant Director or the Nassau Region Bylaws Chairman at: bylaws@nassaupta.org.

Legislation/Resolutions - The Power of PTA
Jerilyn Lewis, Nassau Region PTA Resolutions Chair

The Nassau Region Legislation Team welcomes you to the power of PTA. With over 87,000 PTA members in Nassau Region and over 290,000 members in NYS, we have the ability to move mountains. In our quest to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities, PTA invests in educating our members.

As the Legislation Resolutions Chair for Nassau Region, we cannot over emphasize the importance of sending a delegate to the NYS PTA Convention. Experiencing the resolutions voting process, hearing the Guest Speaker presentations and attending the educational workshops will be invaluable to your membership. This year Nassau Region is tasked with running the floor for the business meetings. Let us know if you plan to attend convention and are willing to help.

We wish you a great 2014-15 school year and I hope to see you at the NYS PTA Convention in November.

The ABC’s of Resolutions:

Retention: A resolution that already exists and that PTA wants to continue to advocate for. Retentions may not be changed.

Rescission: A resolution that will be removed because its purpose has been achieved.

Update: A resolution that is still needed, but whose wording needs to be changed.

New: A new position on an issue on which PTA delegates are asked to vote whether or not to support its advocacy.

All existing resolutions are reviewed every 7 years.

You can read all the current resolutions of NYS PTA in “Where We Stand” at nyspta.org under “Advocacy”
CALLING ALL PRESIDENTS!

Please join us at Presidents’ Rap

DATE: October 28, 2014
TIME: 7:00PM    Registration begins at 6:15PM
PLACE: Nassau BOCES    71 Clinton Road, Garden City
COST: Pre-registration is closed. $15.00 at the door

Join us for an informative and inspiring presentation by National Service Rep Deborah Walsh! Deborah is an excellent presenter with an important message: “WHY PTA?”. You will also have time to share your questions and concerns and meet your Assistant Director. Don’t miss this important Presidents’ Rap!

Advocacy Resources

Nassau Region PTA
Priorities

NYS PTA Resource Guide
(Advocacy Section)

NYS PTA Where We Stand

Reminders for Unit/Council Presidents

Your unit must be a unit in good standing in order to participate in local and state functions such as the Reflections Program and the Presidents-Principals Dinner. If your unit is not in compliance by November 1, 2014 and your bylaws must be current. Please call your AD if you have any questions about your status.

Begin your membership campaign and plan your calendar for executive board and general membership meetings if you have not already done so. Do not forget to present your proposed budget to your executive board for approval before presenting it to the general membership for adoption at your first General Membership meeting.

Be sure to visit our website regularly at www.nassaupta.org. All flyers, registration forms, and conference brochures are available for downloading. Please share the site address with your members.

Presidents/Principals Dinner

By: Jeanette Modi & Patrice Rachlin, Presidents-Principals Dinner Chairs

Our annual Presidents/Principals Dinner is one of our most successful events. All PTA units that are in good standing are invited to join us as we celebrate our annual Presidents/Principals Dinner, recognizing 55 years of parents & administrators celebrating our partnership, at the Crest Hollow Country Club on Monday, November 24, 2014. This dinner is traditionally an opportunity to spend a special evening in a relaxed atmosphere with your administrators and to network with other PTA presidents from across Nassau County.

Please save the date and make sure to include this outstanding event in your budget. Remember to inform your superintendent, building principal, board of education president, and teacher’s union president so they may plan to attend.

We look forward to sharing this very special evening with you.
Fall Conference 2014

Thank you to everyone who came out on Thursday, October 16th to attend Fall Conference! A special thank you to the Oceanside School District and the Oceanside PTA Council for their help and hospitality!

We hope you came away with a greater understanding of all that pertains to PTA including programs, procedures and advocating for our children. Workshops included Nominations & Elections, Reflections, PARP, Bylaws, Finance and Insurance issues, as well as Membership, Family & Health issues and Special Education.

It was great to see so many of our dedicated PTA members take advantage of this training opportunity. There is no doubt the knowledge you came away with will benefit your PTA and the children you advocate for!

NYS PTA Convention Floor Team Training!
Diane McPartland & Lynn Petrofsky, Team Leaders

Are you planning on attending the NYS PTA Convention?

Then why not be a part of Team Nassau for Convention 2014 Floor Team Training?

To join, please contact one of our Team Leaders Lynn Petrofsky 516-336-5528 or Diane McPartland 516-579-0974 or email dianemcpartland@hotmail.com
Reflections

Reflections 2014-2015 PTA Reflections Theme:
"The World Would Be A Better Place If..."

National PTA has a cultural arts program promoting student success. Does your PTA participate?

National PTA began the Reflections Program more than 40 years ago to stress the importance of arts in education. This program is designed to enhance a quality arts education by providing an opportunity for students to explore their artistic talents and receive positive recognition for their efforts. Every year the Reflections Program challenges children from preschool through 12th grade to create art inspired by a specific theme.

How to begin?

Students submit their original artwork through a local PTA unit in any of the six arts areas: dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and visual arts using this year’s theme, “Believe, Dream, Inspire”.

For more information go to www.nassaupta.org click Reflections or contact Nassau Region’s Reflections Chairs Kathy Paulis: reflectionscoordinator@nassaupta.org, Karen Meoni: reflectionsmanager@nassaupta.org, Yvette Jones: spassigneejones@nassaupta.org.

Drop Off: December 2 & 3, 2014 6:00-8:30PM Levittown Memorial Education Center, 150 Abbey Lane, Levittown, NY 11756

Any PTA/PTSA in good standing is eligible to sponsor a Reflections Program.

Students in preschool through grade 12 submit to their PTA, original works of art in dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography and visual arts.

The rules, forms and resources necessary can be found at:
http://www.pta.org/programs/ArtsinEducation.cfm

Be sure to check with your local, region and state PTAs to learn about any specific requirements.

**NOTE - National PTA establishes the rules for Reflections.**

Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant Program

The National PTA Mary Lou Anderson Reflections Arts Enhancement Grant provides matching dollar funding to local PTAs to support in-school and after-school arts enhancement programs within their communities.

PTAs earn up to $1,000 through a competitive grant process to enhance their arts education through activities, materials, new technologies, techniques and visiting artists programs. PTAs serving at-risk student populations are particularly encouraged to apply.

National PTA is looking for the 2015-2016 Reflections Program Theme. Is your PTA challenging students to submit ideas to the National PTA Theme Search Contest? Go to nyspta.org/yourpta/reflections for the entry form. and instructions.
Working with the teacher to support your child’s learning

Now that school is back in session, it is important to monitor our children’s schoolwork closely to ensure that they are learning to the best of their abilities. Is your child struggling in a particular subject? Is homework taking an excessively long time to complete? Is he having trouble with reading or writing on grade level? Is she hesitant to discuss school? Perhaps your child has become increasingly needy or clingy. All of these could be signs that your child is struggling in school. Take note of what your child says about his schoolwork and schedule a meeting to talk with your child’s teacher.

Communication between parents and teachers is the key to recognizing and resolving any issues that may arise before they go too far. Whenever you have concerns about your child’s academic progress, discuss these concerns with the teacher. Your child’s teacher can tell you what is happening in the classroom and may even suggest some tips to help. After some time, you and the teacher should reassess your child’s work. If you still feel your child is not making enough progress, you may want to consider asking the teacher about your school’s procedures to have your child evaluated for special education services.

This evaluation will be provided by the school district at no cost to you, but what can be learned about your child and their needs is invaluable. When children are struggling in school, it’s important to find out why. It may be that a disability is affecting your child’s educational performance. If so, your child may be eligible for special education and related services that can help. Even if your child does not qualify for special education services, you and his teacher now know a lot more about their strengths and weaknesses. You also have a baseline with which to compare his academic growth as time goes on.

The PTA provides many resources to parents of children with special needs including parent workshops, guest speakers at meetings, newsletters & websites with links to helpful organizations. Joining a Special Education PTA (SEPTA) chapter can also provide you with support and constructive information.

Some helpful resources:

- NYS PTA Special Education Toolkit [http://www.pta.org/advocacy/content.cfm?ItemNumber=3715&navItemNumber=3728]

- PBS Parents [http://www.pbs.org/parents/education-going-to-school/supporting-your-learner-struggling-academically]


This is the first in a series of articles concerning special education services. The next two articles will focus on 504 accommodations and on developing an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
Parents As Reading Partners
Natalie Culpeper-Brown, Nassau Region PARP Chair

Congratulations to the 2014 Nassau Region PTA Winner: Manor Oaks Elementary School PTA! Their program, inspired by the Olympics, was entitled “Read Like an Olympian”. It was a huge success with students, parents and teachers alike. Their two-part program kicked off in November with an art contest in which the PARP theme was introduced and students were asked to design an Olympic medal consistent with the theme.

In January, the second part kicked off when all students in grades K-6 attended an assembly program where students paraded into the gym wearing their Olympic medals. A bulletin board showcased the classes and student participation weekly over the course of the next three-week program.

This PARP program was made successful with the support and participation of the entire school community. Their winning entry has been submitted to NYS for statewide judging.

Is your school planning on doing a PARP program this year? If so, please check the PARP section of the Nassau Region website for the PARP Toolkit which offers helpful hints and ideas. Maybe your school will be the featured winner next year! It’s not too early to start planning your PARP program.

To help you get started, join us at the Nassau Region Fall Conference on October 16, 2014 for a very informative PARP Workshop -- How to Run a Successful PARP Program. Manor Oaks will join us to share their winning program ideas with you. If you have any questions about PARP or how to plan your PARP program, please contact Natalie Culpeper-Brown, Nassau Region PTA PARP Chair, at parp@nassaupta.org.

Shop the Nassau Region PTA Boutique
Kimberly Bell, Nassau Region PTA Boutique Chair

Come and stop by the PTA Boutique that is available at many of our workshops and conferences. We are proud to offer a wide selection of pins and other PTA merchandise for every type of PTA position or event including but not limited to Reflections, PARP, Board Members, SEPTA, PTSA, Officers, Teachers, Principals and Students. Most pins are only $4. PTA pins are perfect for installation ceremonies, awards dinners, to honor someone special and to give as gifts to thank those who volunteer during the year.

You can order pins by mail!
Information is on our website: www.nassaupta.org under PTA downloads or contact Boutique Chair Kimberly Bell at 516-223-4756 or send an email to boutique@nassaupta.org.
## Know Your AD: Your Link to Nassau Region

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<td>Bethpage, East Meadow, Island Trees, Levittown, Nassau BOCES Early Childhood &amp; Nassau BOCES Middle School</td>
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<td>6</td>
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New York State PTA Annual Convention

See You In Saratoga Springs!

This year The New York State PTA’s 118th Annual Convention will be held November 14-16, 2014 at The Saratoga Hilton Hotel-Saratoga Springs City Center in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Guest speakers this year include: Chancellor Merryl H. Tisch, NYS Board of Regents; Pam Allyn, author & motivational speaker in the areas of literacy, Common Core Standards, Special Learners, ELL & technology; and Charles Giglio, New York State 2015 Teacher of the Year.

We are very excited that over 100 Nassau Region PTA members will be in attendance! If you are a 1st timer, be sure to stop by the 1st Timers table.

NYS PTA Convention, where advocacy begins!

Website Information

Nassau Region PTA has an easy to navigate website! Please visit us at www.nassaupta.org to help you with all your PTA needs. Check on upcoming events; find important forms, flyers, articles and links to important PTA information: Officers, ADs & other Region Board members’ contact information.

PTA Newsletter Tips

* Name your newsletter! Every newsletter needs a name to distinguish it from the other publications at school.

* Come up with a great design that is simple to format and easy to read. Use 2 fonts or less, it’s easier on the eyes and less confusing to the reader.

* Create a simple graphic calendar of upcoming events. The best place to put it is on the back page because the front and back pages of the newsletter are the most widely read.

* Less is more, less words in an article, less pictures and keep clip art balanced with information.

* Make sure if you are printing pictures of students, that you have written consent from their parents to use their image, including group shots.

* Conference and workshop information.

* Links to New York State PTA, National PTA and other important websites.

* Region calendar, Boutique forms, Award applications and more!

Is Your Unit in Good Standing?

A unit in good standing is one whose:

◊ First dues payment to the New York State PTA is in the state office by November 1.

◊ Insurance premium has been paid to the New York State PTA office by June 1.

◊ Bylaws have been approved by New York State PTA within the past three (3) years.
Every Student Present
Susanne Smoller, Family Engagement Partnerships Chair

The New York State Council on Children and Families started a public awareness campaign called “Every Student Present.” The focus is to look at chronic student absences, how it affects children, and to support strategies to reduce it and improve educational opportunities.

As a PTA, partner with your school to spread the word on the importance of good attendance. Display posters in and around your schools and community, distribute fliers, discuss attendance problems with parents and write articles for your PTA publications (newsletters, websites, social media, etc).

This campaign is a partnership between Attendance Works, Council on Children and Families, Children’s Aid Society, Erie I BOCES, NYS Afterschool Network, New York State Education Department, State University of New York and the United Way of New York City.

To learn more about the initiative, visit www.everystudentpresent.org. They have resources that schools and parents can use to reach the common goal of helping all children attain their full potential.

What Teacher Tenure Means
June Innella, Nassau Region Education Chair

Under our Constitution, the Bill of Rights speaks to due process of law. Basically it means that before you can strip people of their liberty or property they have the right to a fair hearing or trial.

Here is what tenure really means to teachers, students, and public education stakeholders, such as you and me. It means that teachers will have the academic freedom to teach the content of their subject area without someone modifying it. After all, the teacher has gone through a rigorous process of learning the subject and should not be subjected to changes made by someone who has no knowledge of that subject.

What tenure means is that after a three year probationary period in which a teacher has proven to perform with excellence, he or she may not be fired arbitrarily or without just cause. Basically, it provides for “a day in court”. It means that educators are allowed academic freedom and the right to stand up for their students.

What tenure does not mean is that a teacher can’t be fired. In fact, many are; following a hearing where the facts are presented. One in which the charges against them are clearly presented and a defense is fairly heard.

As an educator, I do not want an ineffective teacher working alongside me. I would expect that before a teacher would get to the point of ineffective, a support system would have been put into place. Quality professional development is part of every school districts plan. As parents we should be asking our school administrators what professional development plan they have in place for their educators that will provide your children with the best, 21st century education.

There is something to be said for experience. And yes, there is a way to fairly dismiss an incompetent educator. It is called a tenure hearing.
Recognize the Outstanding Members of Your Unit

New York State PTA offers many awards and ways to recognize outstanding people and programs. Listed below are just a few:

* Advocate in Action Award - Acknowledge the involvement of PTA members in their child’s education as well as in their PTA.
* Honorary Life Award - recognize individuals for their contributions to the welfare of children and youth.
* The Golden Oak and Diamond Awards - special way to honor your most dedicated volunteers.
* Parents as Reading Partners Award - recognize your units' efforts to encourage cooperative reading or literacy activities.

For additional information, applications and eligibility requirements visit nassaupta.org under awards/scholarships or nyspta.org click on Your PTA - Awards and Recognitions.

October is Healthy Literacy Month!

PTA units and individuals can plan this month to promote the importance of understandable health information.

Read and discover a new recipes for the whole family to cook together at:

Visit www.fruitsandveggiesmorematters.org

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Nassau Region PTA thanks

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For 2014-15

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Nassau Region PTA ® 2014-2015 Calendar

October 2014
28th - Presidents’ Rap 7:00PM

November 2014
14th -16th - NYS PTA Convention
24th - Presidents-Principals Dinner

December 2014
2nd-3rd—Reflections Drop Off—LMEC 6:00-8:30PM

January 2015
8th - Reflections Pick Up - LMEC 6:00-8:30PM
22nd - Nominations & Elections & President’s Rap II

February 2015
14 - PTA Founders Day
28th-March 1st - NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference

March 2015
2nd - Virtual Lobby Day
7th - Nassau Region Legislation Round Table 9:00AM

April 2015
13th - Arts-in-Education Showcase
23rd - Reflections Reception 7:00PM

May 2015
11th - Spring Conference/Ways & Means Expo

June 2015
11th - Officers’ Training 7:00PM