PTA's MISSION is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

A Message From Lynn Petrofsky
The Region Director

Dear Members,

Let me begin by thanking all of you who attended the NYS PTA Convention in Tarrytown. I can’t wait to see you all next year in Syracuse. I would also like to thank everyone that came out for our Presidents-Principals Dinner. It was great to have so many superheroes in one place.

We are just about halfway through the PTA year and coming up to the beginning of a new year. Although PTA work never ends, we must remember the reason we all got involved — the children. During the holiday season, please take the time to treasure your family and friends, and making memories to last a lifetime.

This is a perfect time to review, reassess and plan for the future. January is a good time to review what has worked thus far in your PTA and what might need improvement. Celebrate your successes! Reassess your plans for the remainder of the PTA year to make any changes to improve those plans for the better. Don’t dwell on and rehash the mistakes of the past; just learn from them and move on.

At this time, all units should have elected (not selected) their nominating committees. Take note of those around you. Be on the lookout for future leaders. Remember that per your bylaws no one should hold a specific elected position for more than two consecutive years. If that is happening in your unit, it is time to make some changes and get into compliance with those bylaws. You should all participate in the process. Nominations and elections are right around the corner. All nominating committee members and any member who would like to know the correct way to conduct elections should attend the Nominations & Elections Workshop on January 14th.

Are you a President? Do you want to learn more about how your unit should run? Do you have a problem that seems impossible or insurmountable? Nassau Region PTA is here to help. Your Assistant Director (A.D.) is always available to assist you. Are you a treasurer who is overwhelmed by budgets, balancing the books and reporting to your membership? Attend the President & Treasurer Raps on February 24th. Bring your questions to be answered in a relaxed and informal forum.

Do you have an issue of concern for which PTA has no position, or do you want to learn more about and lobby for an existing PTA position? If there is no position, think about writing a resolution. Nassau Region’s Advocacy Team would love to assist you with this.

Nassau Regional Legislative Conference (LegCon) will be held on February 29th at the New Hyde Park Inn. Presidents will receive the flyer with details and registration information. This will also be available on Nassau Region Region’s website and MemberHub page.

So many opportunities to start a new year awaits all of us!

Best,
Lynn — regiondirector@nassaupta.org

Visit NYS PTA's website for helpful information to Run Your PTA.
https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta
Historical Information by Emily Schreiber, Newsletter Editor

Back in 1997, I was asked to create a book celebrating NYS PTA’s first 100 Years of Advocacy for Children and Youth. Carolyn Fiori who was the incoming President helped me weed out the most important information, and, in time for the Centennial NYS PTA Convention, the 160 page soft-cover book, *A Century of Caring — 1897-1997 — New York State PTA* was ready for the delegates. The task was a six-month-long labor of love!

The following segments appeared on pages 46 and 47 of the book. I hope you’ll find the information interesting.

**Founders Day** is celebrated each year on February 17 to honor the founding leaders of the New York State PTA — Alice McLellan Birney, Phoebe Apperson Hearst and Selena Sloan Butler. A donation to this fund is an appropriate way to recognize an individual's contribution to the PTA.

**1897 · February 17** Commemorates the day when the PTA idea took on a force and vitality of a nationwide movement. It was that day that some 2,000 persons met in Washington D.C. to discuss “Questions most vital to the welfare of children and the manifold interest of the home.” New York’s first State Organization of Mothers was organized in Washington even before the delegates got home.
PARLIAMENTARIAN VS. PARLIAMENTARY ADVISOR
by Parliamentarian Helene P. Goldsmith, RP

“The parliamentarian is a consultant, commonly a professional, who advises the president and other officers, committees, and members on matters of parliamentary procedure. The parliamentarian’s role during a meeting is purely an advisory and consultative one–since parliamentary law gives to the chair alone the power to rule on questions of order or to answer parliamentary inquiries.” (RONR 11th edition.)

It is advisable for a unit or council to appoint a person knowledgeable about the PTA’s Bylaws and Procedures to the position of parliamentary adviser. This should be someone who is familiar with Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) 11th edition, PTA’s parliamentary authority. Most PTAs do not require the services of a professional parliamentarian.

This is not an elected position, nor does it automatically become the role of the past president. It should be a discreet individual with whom the president will feel comfortable when he/she must seek advice. The president should feel free to appoint someone in whom he/she has confidence.

While the president may call on the parliamentary adviser for advice from time to time, it is the chair that makes the final decision and is not obligated to take the parliamentarian’s advice.
**Nassau County Legislature Votes to Ban Flavored E-Cigarettes**

by Susan Fisher, Legislation Chair

On Monday, November 25, 2019, the Nassau County Legislature met to vote to ban the sale of flavored e-cigarettes. The new law will take effect on January 1, 2020, but it will exclude tobacco, mint, and menthol flavors. Legislator Drucker introduced the ban, and it passed unanimously.

Supporters of the ban ranged from pediatricians, superintendents, Nassau Region PTA, and middle school students asking the legislators to protect them. Each of them addressed the current vaping epidemic facing our youth. Different speakers brought up the American Medical Association’s call for bans on e-cigarettes, the Surgeon General’s advisory, and statistics showing the dramatic rise in vaping by high school students.

Opponents of the ban wore t-shirts that said “Flavors Save Lives” and argued that flavored vaping is a way to help adults quit smoking. They gave anecdotal evidence and asked the legislators to think of the lives of smokers that have been changed and improved by e-cigarettes.

Legislator Kopel, before voting in favor of the ban, cautioned that this ban may create a black market for flavored e-cigarettes. Nassau County is leading the country by enacting this ban, similar to New York City and other parts of the country.

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**Scholarships** by Laurie May, Scholarship Chair

Did you know that there are student scholarships available through NYS PTA and Nassau Region PTA? Unit presidents and high school guidance counselors receive applications for both the NYS Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education and the Nassau Region Dr. Adrienne Robb-Fund Family Scholarship.

The $3000 Jenkins Memorial Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors who intend to pursue a career in teaching and will be attending a CUNY/SUNY college. The postmarked (not metered) deadline to apply is December 15. You will find the application in a Word-fillable document on the NYS PTA website. Presidents, please note that the application must include your signature, and your PTA must be in good standing for the application to be considered. The application also requires a guidance counselor or principal’s signature. Applications not completed correctly will not be considered.

The Fund Family Scholarship is a $500 scholarship awarded annually to one high school student graduating from a Nassau County high school with a PTA in good standing. The student must demonstrate resiliency in overcoming obstacles to learning - be it academic, language, social, emotional, or due to special needs. A written essay must be submitted along with the application and must be postmarked by March 15 of the student’s graduating year. Presidents, please note that the application must include your signature and your PTA must be in good standing for the application to be considered. The application also requires a guidance counselor or principal’s signature.

Please share this information with your members and follow up with your guidance department to make sure they have received the information and disseminated it to their students.
REFLECTIONS “Look Within” Theme for 2019-2020 by Colette Carrion, Reflections Coordinator and Marie Saint, Vil Reflections Manager

Reflections turned 50 years old, and we are happy to be chairing the National PTA Reflections Program this year.

At the time of this posting, Reflections drop off would have already occurred. As a reminder, pick up is on Monday, January 6, 2020 at the Levittown Memorial Education Center at 150 Abbey Lane from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Please remember to bring your index card, which serves as your receipt.

We look forward to sharing the winners with all of you. Thanks to the unit Reflections Chairs and Region Committee for their dedication to this important one-of-a-kind arts contest program for every child.

Pre-K and K Initiative by June Innella, Resolutions Chair

Did you know that in New York City 100% of 4-year-olds have access to a full day state-funded Pre-K, while only 7% of Pre-K students have access to a state-funded program in Nassau County?

The time is now to contact legislators, and let them know we need funds to establish a Regional Technical Assistance Center to provide a bridge between schools and communities. This center will support the expansion of Pre-K, offer professional development, and encourage family engagement efforts.

Studies show that Pre-K and K work. Whether the child is being raised in a low/middle/high income home, children who attend Pre-K and K have a higher rate of academic success, better high school graduation rates, and have more productive lives.
And the Nassau Region PARP Winner Is …
by Stephanie Avidon, Literacy Chair

Congratulations to the 2019 Nassau Region PTA PARP Winner: Meadow Elementary School PTA in Baldwin. Their program was entitled “Camp Meadow-waka S’more Fun with Books.” It was a four-week program for grades K-5, spearheaded by first-time extremely motivated chairs.

Their program included a variety of new and improved activities such as posting their PARP Pledge which increased participation, creating an original PARP theme song, Guest Reader Days, a classroom door decorating contest, a book drive for Book Fairies, a Book Fair, and a camp mascot contest (Two mascots were created around the theme – Foxie Fiction and Chippy Chapter.) Their Family Reading Night, complete with tents and a campfire with s’mores, was a huge success.

They expected 100 people based on past years, but over 400 attended; they did a good job promoting the event. A big part of their program’s success was the joint effort between the parents, teachers, and administrators. It was truly a team effort with administration and teacher involvement from the planning to the execution.

During their final assembly, their principal and assistant principal surprised the students by performing a rap song about reading.

They also created a Facebook page encouraging families to post pictures of their children reading (in bed, in the car or on the train, with their dog or at the kitchen table with family members). Parents and teachers continued to post even after the program ended. They saw a tremendous increase in participation this year and attribute it to their push for joint promotions within school and to the families. This program certainly made an impact on the entire school community and truly encouraged the love of reading!

Is your school planning a PARP program this year? If so, 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! The PARP Award entry will be posted online in January. If you don’t currently run a PARP program, check out the PARP Toolkit to see how you can easily start and create a program that encourages the love of reading to students and families at your school.

If you have any questions about PARP or how to plan your PARP program, please contact Stephanie Avidon, Nassau Region PTA Literacy Chair, at parp@nassaupta.org.
**NYS PTA Annual Convention** by Susan Fisher, Legislation Chair

On November 8th through November 10th, NYS PTA held its annual Convention in Tarrytown, NY. There were between 258 and 350 people at this convention. There were many excellent workshops and opportunities for learning and training. I participated in three focus groups geared toward listening to what parents think about internet safety and what we want to help keep our children safe. Google, GoGuardian, and Facebook ran these focus groups. They are looking for ways to improve their services and increase online privacy and safety.

On Friday afternoon, I took a workshop titled “Motivating Your Membership Base.” This workshop spoke to learning how people receive information and using people’s strengths in PTA. On Saturday morning, I participated in a workshop titled “Digital Citizenship and Student Safety.” Gaggle ran this workshop and was very informative in the area of internet safety. This workshop taught me important symptoms to look out for when our students are victims of cyberbullying and how to report these instances. This is a genuine and current concern for all parents, and we must educate ourselves about the symptoms and how to help our students. On Saturday afternoon, I participated in a workshop focused on how to plan a local legislative conference. This was a fantastic workshop laying out the steps and encouraging advocacy at the local unit, region, and state levels.

During the third general session, on behalf of the Nassau Region Legislative Committee, I gave a Statement of Concern before the members present at the convention. The Statement of Concern was about the unregulated sale and promotion of CBD products. The statement addressed our concern that CBD products are currently produced without any regulations or manufacturing oversight, resulting in products that vary in quality. This results in unreliable purity and dosing. We also addressed our concern that these trendy products are unregulated, claim unsubstantiated health benefits, and are marketed for use by our children.

The 2019 NYS PTA Convention had incredible student performances and inspiring keynote speakers. Vendors ranged from Life360 and Lifetouch to insurance companies and fundraising opportunities. National PTA President, Leslie Boggs, came to the Convention, spoke at our Banquet, presented workshops, and spent time meeting the many delegates.
PTA PERKS

PTA members get more. Follow the links below our images to learn more about membership benefits, discounts, opportunities, services, and reasons to belong.

https://nyspta.org/home/membership/member-benefits/