Dear Presidents,

Happy New Year from Nassau Region!

Can the time by go any faster?! We are nearly halfway through the school year.

As we come back to the school routine and PTA, I hope you will be gearing up for your winter membership campaign. Nassau Region is the largest region in NYS, a fact we are very proud of! We have set a goal of 100,000 members and with your help, I know we can get there! The benefits of membership are many, but there is no doubt that community support of PTA and family engagement in education results in successful schools and most importantly, successful students. When your community supports the work of your PTA and the work you do is reflected in the success of your children, it validates all that you have been doing as advocates. Our strength as an advocacy organization lies in its members and numbers do matter!

As requested in your Fall Conference evaluations, Winter Conference will be expanded this year. In addition to Presidents’ Rap II and Nominations and Elections, we are also offering a Special Education Workshop as well as a treasury workshop. Look for the registration mailing soon. Information is also posted to our website at www.nassaupta.org. Mark your calendars for January 22!

We hope that you use your PTA meetings to bring parents, teachers and administrators together to dialog about the many complex issues facing our public schools today. We will be holding our Legislation Roundtable on March 7 at Hofstra University. Our focus will be on the issue of Unaccompanied Minors and the impact it can and is having on our schools, but we also need to let our elected representatives know that there are a number of issues of concern that need addressing. Meet with your principal or superintendent to map out your questions and concerns and bring them with you so that you can speak to your legislators directly about the financial and educational problems your school may be experiencing. This is the opportunity for you to be the voice of your children that you won’t want to miss!

Don’t forget to recognize the hard work of your volunteers. There are numerous awards available that acknowledge their commitment to advocating for children. Please visit the National, State and Nassau Region websites for ways to say thank you.

Cheers to a happy and successful 2015!
Laurie
Treasurer’s 5-4-3-2-1...Happy New Year!

By: Jeanette Meoli, Nassau Region PTA Treasurer

5 Simple ways to keep your PTA in check:
- Maintain a detailed paper trail
- Report monthly to your membership
- Reconcile monthly
- Audit mid-year
- Audit at the end of the year

4 Tips for a healthy PTA unit:
- PTA funds should never benefit one individual or small group of individuals.
- No monies should ever be spent that were not budgeted or approved by the general membership.
- Chairman may not exceed the amount budgeted in their lines without the approval of the membership.
- Only the President can sign a contract, with the approval of the executive committee.

3 to 1 Rule:
- Always remember the three to one rule: there should be three non-fundraising projects for each one fundraising project.

2 Signatures Required
- All checks require two signatures.
  Never issue PTA checks without two signatures.

1 Training Event
- Attend at least one Nassau Region PTA training event per year to keep your PTA skills and knowledge up to date - Winter Conference is January 22 where we will be hosting a Treasurers’ Roundtable - come with your questions!

Keep your New Year happy. For answers to questions, always refer to your Resource Guide, or contact your Assistant Director or me at treasurer@nassaupta.org.

The Bylaws EZ

By: Dan Batik, Nassau Region Bylaws Chair

All units and councils must have PTA bylaws under which they operate. The bylaws must be updated every 3 years to keep your unit or council in good standing with the State and National PTA. Bylaws are the backbone of your association.

You are encouraged to use the new Bylaws EZ process as it is more efficient, user friendly and takes less than 15 minutes to complete. To get started visit www.nyspta.org and click on the Bylaws EZ link.

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 bylaws are sent electronically 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 your board members.
Upcoming PTA Awards

By: Marian Wawryk, Nassau Region PTA Awards Chair

Judith Shapiro Parliamentary Award

A parliamentary award was established in memory of Judith Shapiro, a certified Professional Parliamentarian, past Region Director and Parliamentarian for New York State and Nassau Region PTAs. This award is presented to a sophomore or junior who exhibits outstanding leadership qualities and is presently enrolled in a high school with a PTA or PTSA unit in good standing. This award may also be presented to a PTA member who exhibits the same qualities and is a member of a PTA or PTSA unit in good standing.

The recipient receives a complimentary copy of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. In addition, the winner will attend the annual seminar of the Long Island Chapter of the American Institute of Parliamentarians as a guest of Nassau Region PTA.

This award will be presented at the Nassau Region PTA Spring Conference on Monday, May 11, 2015. The application is available on our website at www.nassaupta.org. All completed applications should be returned to: Marian Wawryk, Nassau Region PTA Awards Chair, 20 Hidden Lane, Westbury, NY 11590 and must be received no later than March 31, 2015. For further information contact Marian Wawryk, Awards Chair at (516) 334-3476 or e-mail awards@nassaupta.org.

The Youth Humanitarian Award ~ In Memory of Stanley Marcus

Congratulations to Nassau Region PTA's 2014 Youth Humanitarian Award In Memory of Stanley Marcus winner Lynne Radar of Plainedge HS. Lynn was also selected as the NYS PTA Stanley Marcus 2014 Award winner!

The Youth Humanitarian Award ~ In Memory of Stanley Marcus application is available online at www.nyspta.org. Applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2015 and sent to Nassau Region Director Laurie May at 35 Hidden Lane, Westbury, NY 11590. If you have an eligible student who meets the criteria and you would like to celebrate their philanthropy, please send us their application!

Does your PTA have an outstanding newsletter? If so, then enter the

2014-2015 Nassau Region PTA
Winifred Pratt Newsletter Competition!

You’ll need two different issues from the current school year, and three copies of each issue.

For complete judging criteria and to download an entry form, please visit our website, www.nassaupta.org

All entries must be postmarked by March 31, 2015
**NYS PTA Convention Wrap-up**

*By: Jerilyn Lewis, Legislation Resolutions Chair*

The 114th annual New York State Convention was held in Saratoga Springs November 14-16, 2014.

All retentions and updates presented were adopted, as well as the 3 new resolutions: Education for HIPPA Right to Privacy and Health Care Proxy, Electronic Cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and Youth and Social Host Law.

There were over 270 voting delegates with all 16 Regions being represented! The weekend was spent attending sessions, taking some very informative workshops and browsing through exhibitors in the exhibition hall. Immediate Past President Lana Ajemian bid us a fond farewell and joined us as we welcomed our newly elected New York State PTA officers.

**NAASSAU REGION PTA HAS THE FLOOR!**

Nassau Region PTA was responsible for the floor management at the NYS PTA Convention this year. We had over 50 volunteers working the “floor” and its many duties:

The *Floor Management Team Coaches* were Diane McPartland and Lynn Petrofsky. The *Door Management Team* led by Veronica Goldberg was responsible for ensuring that every delegate was admitted and received all pertinent documents for each general session.

The *Usher and Page Team* led by Patrice Rachlin was responsible for ensuring that voting and non-voting delegates were seated properly, assisted the microphone management teams, and also were on hand to assist the tellers in the event of a “division of the house”.

The *Teller Team* led by Jeanette Meoli was responsible for counting the votes in the case of a “division of the house” (standing count) and also assisted the Microphone Management Team with their duties.

The *Microphone Management Team* led by Helen Hoffman was responsible for seeing that every delegate who came to a microphone to speak was at the correct microphone and prepared to speak correctly at the general sessions. They were responsible for recording the name and time of every speaker at all five microphones.

The *Timekeeping Team* led by Pat Assortato was responsible for ensuring that all discussion and debate on convention business was conducted within the time limits as designated in the Convention Rules. They also kept record of speakers at every microphone for every session and the time and length of their discussions.

The *Platform Management Team* led by Sarah Henris and Maria Smith was responsible for preparing the dais for each session; this included making sure every guest had a place card and water. Sarah and her team also ensured that every guest received a small token of appreciation from NYS PTA.

Overall we had a great convention and we would like to thank all who volunteered and made Nassau Region PTA shine!
Legislation for Our Children’s Future

By: Jerilyn Lewis, Legislation Resolutions Chair

As we say farewell to 2014 there are many things we have accomplished and can be proud of. The NYS PTA Convention was a huge success; the student performers, the guest speakers and the workshops were awesome.

The Nassau Region team ran the convention floor and did a fabulous job. Kudos to Diane McPartland and Lynn Petrofsky, our convention team leaders. Many thanks to all those who volunteered to help!

The delegation passed all retentions, updates and new resolutions. A special thank you goes to Donna LaScala, author of the “Education for HIPAA Right to Privacy and Health Care Proxy” resolution. Donna attended the Nassau Region Legislation/Resolution workshop in September, and when asked, she provided a very personal look at how the HIPAA Act can adversely impact our families and what concerned parents should do.

A special thank you also goes to Sarah Henris; she has been the driving force behind the “e-Cigarette and Youth” resolution. NYS PTA now has a resolution on e-Cigarettes and there are other states that have or are working on their own e-Cigarette resolution. We all need to advocate for regulation of these products on a federal level and education of their dangers all the way down to the local level.

March is Advocacy month. Now that the convention resolutions have passed, it’s time to advocate on their behalf. Our legislators really do want to hear from us. Why not begin the New Year by introducing yourself to your local legislators and discussing the PTA issues that are important to you?

Remember to save the date for the Nassau Region Legislation Roundtable on March 7th. Also, plan to attend the NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference in Albany February 28th - March 1st followed by NYS PTA Lobby Day 2015. Help us advocate for the future of our children!

March is Advocacy Month

Save The Date!
NEW YORK STATE PTA
LEGISLATION/EDUCATION CONFERENCE
Saturday, February 28, & Sunday, March 1, 2015
The Desmond Hotel
660 Albany-Shaker Road ▪ Albany, NY

For more details, a registration packet, and online registration, visit the NYS PTA Website at www.nyspta.org
PTA Awards are a great way to show your community how involved and vital your PTA unit is! Everyone wants to be part of a winning team … apply for PTA awards today!

Nassau Region

Winter Conference

FLORAL PARK MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL
Thursday, January 22, 2015
♦ Presidents Rap II
♦ Special Education Roundtable
♦ Nominations & Elections
♦ Treasurers Roundtable

Registration Begins at 6:45 PM
Workshops 7:30-9:00 PM

Cost: $10.00 pre-registration by February 8 or $15.00 at the door
Visit www.nassaupta.org to download registration form.
Additional questions about registration?
Call Pam Naso: Nassau Region PTA Registrar at 516-353-8579
or email registration@nassaupta.org

NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION: GO TO PTA TRAINING!
Winter Conference/Presidents’ Rap II

ALL PTA PRESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!
Join Nassau Region’s Assistant Directors for an informal roundtable discussion, network with other presidents to see what works in their unit and what issues they may be dealing with. Share your success stories and your concerns.
Bring your bylaws and questions.
Presenters: Lynn Petrofsky, Nassau Region PTA Associate Director
and the Nassau Region PTA Assistant Directors
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Nassau Region PTA

Save The Date
Proud To be an Advocate

Nassau Region PTA unit and council Presidents, Legislation Chairs and PTA Members, School Board Members, Teachers, Administrators and Superintendents look forward to the unique opportunity to put advocacy into action by meeting with our legislators to discuss educational and community issues that impact our children and communities.

Join Us At Our
ANNUAL LEGISLATION ROUNDTABLE
Saturday, March 7, 2015
Hofstra University Club
David S. Mack Hall
225 Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York 11549

BREAKFAST/PROGRAM: 9:00 am – Noon
For more info: www.nassaupta.org or email legislationevents@nassaupta.org

Looking for Colleges

By: Amanda Kahn, Nassau Region Youth Member

Attention sophomores, juniors and seniors! It’s the perfect time of year to start looking for colleges! You might be thinking that tenth grade is too early to start looking for colleges, but it’s the perfect time. The earlier you start looking for colleges, the better. A really great way to start looking for colleges is to attend college fairs. A college fair is when a large amount of colleges set up tables at a venue and explain to you what programs they offer. College fairs have large varieties of schools, which will guarantee that you can find a college that meets your desired career path. While at a college fair you should take brochures, ask questions and even sign up for mailing lists. When you sign up for a mailing lists you get emails giving you important information about your school such as open houses and different events they may have throughout the year.

Before you go to a college fair, list your interests and possible career paths. This will narrow down your search for the perfect college. You can also research certain colleges before you go so you can ask them questions. You can even attend a college fair that is specific to your own personal acumen. For example, I attended a small art college fair at a high school in my district because I plan on majoring in an art profession. You also need to consider a minor while looking for colleges. A minor is like a plan B. For example, I can major in animation and design while also minoring in teaching. There are a lot of colleges to choose from so make sure you are choosing one that meets your academic needs, financial needs, lifestyle and of course, your career path. Start looking for colleges early in order to make yourself the best candidate for your future college. See a guidance counselor at your school or check the newspaper to see if there are any upcoming college fairs you can attend.
By: Lucille Vitale, Nassau Region PTA Health & Wellness Chair

During this past November at NYS PTA Convention, in Saratoga Springs, I had the pleasure of taking a workshop presented by MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving). One of the programs they are currently working on is bringing awareness to driving sober during the holiday season, Tie One On For Safety®.

According to MADD, statistics show that the time between Thanksgiving and New Years Day has the greatest number of fatal car accidents of the year. Their Tie One On For Safety® program, includes handing out information cards with red ribbons attached it to it. The literature speaks to the importance of always being sober when driving and to always have a plan for a safe way home before drinking. The red ribbons can be detached and should be placed in the driver’s vehicle to be a constant reminder to always drive sober.

I was fortunate enough to be able to obtain 500 Tie One on for Safety® cards with ribbons and put them out at the Nassau Region Presidents-Principals dinner, this past November. Hopefully through all of our efforts, awareness will be brought to this ongoing problem and more people will take the oath to ALWAYS drive sober, with special attention made to the holiday season.

Need your own Tie One on for Safety® ribbon? Visit MADD at http://www.madd.org/drunk-driving/how-you-can-help/tie-one-on-for-safety.html Sign up to receive your own red ribbon and help spread the word about Tie One on for Safety®.

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

A wonderful evening was had by all at the 55th Annual Nassau Region Presidents-Principals Dinner, held at the Crest Hollow Country Club on Monday, November 24th. Over 530 attendees enjoyed a lovely evening of conversation and captivating entertainment by the students of the Nassau BOCES Long Island High School for the Arts. National PTA Reflections winners from Nassau Region were honored including Matthew Greene, Rainer DeLalio, Hannah Islas, Jillian Miller and Anthony Pomarac.

Newly elected New York State PTA 1st Vice President Gracemarie Rozea brought greetings from President Bonnie Russell. We are glad that so many of you were able to join us for a memorable evening “recognizing 55 years of parents and administrators celebrating our partnership”. If this was your first time attending, we thank you for joining with us to celebrate PTA and we hope to see you again next year.
Nassau Region PTA New Cooperating Partners

By: Susanne Smoller, Nassau Region PTA Family Engagement Partnerships Chair

Nassau Region PTA has increased its list of Cooperating Partners. The Nassau Alliance for Addiction Services (NAFAS), Families in Support of Treatment (F.I.S.T.) and the Community Parent Center have all signed on to be Cooperating Partners with Nassau Region PTA.

The Nassau Alliance for Addiction Services (NAFAS) is a not-for-profit coalition of 26 community-based agencies across Nassau County. They are committed to delivering affordable, accessible, & comprehensive prevention and treatment services to individuals and families struggling with the consequences of drug, alcohol, gambling and other addictions, and abuses. To learn more about NAFAS, go to their website at: www.nassaualliance.org or like their Facebook page to learn more about services and workshops they provide.

Families in Support of Treatment (F.I.S.T) was created to help families and individuals who have been impacted by the disease of addiction. F.I.S.T is a vehicle to unite concerned individuals, families, and communities to address social injustice of access to substance use disorder treatment.

To learn more about F.I.S.T, go to: http://fist-familiesinsupportoftreatment.com/home.html or like their Facebook page to learn about advocacy efforts.

The Community Parent Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization established in 1988 by a dedicated group of school administrators and parents in their efforts to help improve the social, emotional, and academic development of children and teens in order for them to reach their full potential. The Community Parent Center focuses on positive parenting and health and safety issues, by offering a wide range of programs and workshops that are suited to diverse audiences such as: Safe Teen Driving; Bullying; Cyber-bullying; Internet Safety Awareness; Transition to Middle School; Substance/Alcohol Abuse Prevention; Youth sports safety. To learn more about the Community Parent Center go to: http://communityparentcenter.org/.

Please take time to review these new partners’ websites and seek them out for services to help your community.

Keep that New Year’s Resolution right through the Spring … plan to attend the Nassau Region PTA Spring Conference and Ways & Means Expo

New Venue!

Monday, May 11 at the Chateau Briand

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
Although PTA advocacy is a year-round effort, March has been traditionally designated as PTA Advocacy Month.

There are many ways PTA members can become involved in advocacy. The annual Nassau Region Legislation Roundtable will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015 at the Hofstra University Club from 9 AM - 12 PM. This is a chance to meet with, learn from and lobby local legislators. Please mark your calendars and plan on joining us!

**Relections! and the winner is…**
By: Kathy Paulis and Karen Meoni, Nassau Region PTA Reflections Co-Chairs

Over 150 PTAs though out Nassau Region took part in this year’s National PTA Reflections Program: The World Would Be a Better Place If .... Nassau Region PTA applauds every student who participated, making this year’s program a huge success! 159 Nassau students have been selected as Region level PTA Reflections winners. Reflections Pick Up is January 8th, 6-8:30 PM, at Levittown Memorial Education Center, 150 Abbey Lane, Levittown, NY 11756.

Our judges have selected the entries which best interpret the program theme. The winning entries will represent Nassau Region in the New York State PTA level of Reflections. Each region-level finalist will be honored during the Nassau Region PTA Reflections Reception on April 23, 2015 at Wisdom Lane Middle School in Levittown. Congratulations to each of the winning students, their families and local PTA.
Undocumented Children
By: June Innella, Nassau Region Education Chair

For almost twenty years, the issue of caring for undocumented children has been recognized by National PTA. In 1996 a position statement entitled, Services For Undocumented Children was adopted by PTA and it continues to hold fast. National PTA believes that all children regardless of a child’s immigration status, have the right of access to a quality public education, adequate food and shelter, and basic health care services.

National PTA believes:
- The Immigration and Naturalization Service, (INS) not the public schools, should determine the legal status of immigrant children and that the INS should bear full responsibility for enforcing that policy.
- No child should be denied access to a free public education as it is the most effective way for children to reach their full potential and become productive members of society.
- The confidentiality of school records, inclusive of immigration status of children is necessary to protect the child.
- The federal child nutrition programs, inclusive of school meals for all children, are needed to fight hunger and enhance their physical, academic and emotional growth.
- That communities may become at risk for serious health and social concerns if health care and other social service needs are not provided through Federal, State, and local entities.

How does the recent influx of undocumented children affect our schools? It puts a burden on our educators who must now account for additional children with very diverse needs. It also adds an additional burden for our administrators and Boards of Education who are legally responsible to provide programs and services in the current climate of economic constraints.

What can we do as parents, educators and concerned individuals who want the best for all children and youth? Invite the members of your school board, administrators, community members and your local legislators to a “Give and Take” session. Ask the school district leaders to come prepared with the facts on the number of undocumented and homeless children and youth that are in attendance in your district and neighboring districts. Let our Federal and State legislators know how your schools are being affected and then work together to help these children. Together we can make a difference.

For more information and Talking Points for National and NYS PTAs positions on Unaccompanied Children visit PTA.org/Advocacy, nyspta.org/Advocacy, and nysptapresident.blogspot.com dated September 19, 2014: Unaccompanied Minor Children: Where Do We Go? What Can We Do?

Arts-in-Education Showcase - Save the Date!
By: Robin Workman, Nassau Region PTA Arts-in-Education Chair

Nassau Region PTA’s Arts-in-Education Showcase will be held on Monday, April 13, 2015 from 9 am to 2 pm at The Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City.

Unit presidents, school arts administrators and PTA Arts-in-Education chairs should attend. Come meet over 100 potential performers and see what they have to offer. This is the perfect way to find new ideas for your Arts-in-Education programs!

Pick up information about storytellers, dance troupes, theater groups, authors, artists, musicians, and many more.

There will also be live performances by artists throughout the day - what a great way to preview an act before booking them!

Additionally, all attendees will receive a copy of the new 2015 Arts-in-Education Directory, which will include even more information about performers and programs.

Look for registration information and directions on the Nassau Region PTA website at www.nassaupta.org - just click on the link for “Arts-in-Education Showcase” on the homepage. If you have any questions about the showcase or Arts-in-Education in general, please contact me at artsinedcoordinator@nassaupta.org.
Purpose:
The overall purpose of PTA is to make every child’s potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Nassau Region PTA Calendar 2015

January 2015
8 - Reflections Pick Up
22 - Winter Conference (including Presidents Rap II, Treasurers Roundtable, Nominations & Elections Workshop and SEPTA Roundtable)
31 - Youth Humanitarian Award In Memory of Stanley Marcus Award Deadline

February 2015
28-3/1 – NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference - Albany

March 2015
7 – Legislation Roundtable 9:00 AM
31 – Carolyn Fiori Leadership Award Deadline
31 – Judith Shapiro Parliamentary Award Deadline
31 – Winifred Pratt Newsletter Award Deadline

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

May 2015
11 – Spring Conference/Ways & Means Expo

June 2015
11 – Officers Training
15 – Jane Skrzypek Volunteer Award Deadline
15 – PARP Award Deadline