



# DIMENSIONS

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Theresa Raso, Editor

## ***A Word From Our Region Director*** Kathy Vento

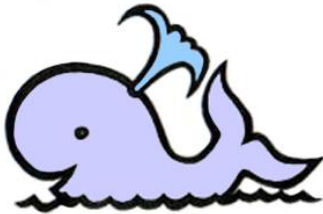
Finally, Spring is here. It's that time for Nominations and Elections. Please check the NYS Resource Guide for proper procedures for your election meeting. After the election, please be sure to fill out your Officers' contact information Form A as soon as possible. Make sure not to miss the early bird insurance payment date of June 15<sup>th</sup>, and lastly please make your final membership payments and return all unused membership cards. We were very proud to honor our *Stanley Marcus Humanitarian Award* winner Alexis Nicole Darrow and our *NYS Jenkins Memorial Scholarship* winners Laurie Tricano, Jaclyn DeFiore and Edward Tyler Heinrichs at our Spring Conference. I would like to congratulate Jackie Wilson, Joyce Cattani, Dana Platin, Joan Wabnik, and Lori Fontana on accepting positions on *NYS PTA* Governance team.

I also would like to welcome Maureen Shanley and Debbie Epifane to "Team Suffolk." They will bring their knowledge and unique qualities to our board.

Finally, thank you to all who have helped or hosted one of our *Region* events. Your hard work and dedication to all children is commendable. Thank you for helping me through my first year and I look forward to another productive year.

Best Regards,

Kathy Vento



***Convention 2015... We're off to the Falls!***

**Jacqueline Wilson, Convention Coordinator**

The *NYS PTA* 119<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention will be held in the beautifully scenic city of Niagara Falls from November 13-15. This is your opportunity to visit this incredible natural wonder and to experience first-hand how *New York State PTA* works to put forth the resolutions that are the basis for our annual legislative priorities. There will be opportunities to network with other PTA members from across NYS as well as visit and speak with fundraising vendors and those showcasing programs available for your PTA. There will be workshops covering

topics such as leadership, finance, education, and parliamentary procedure. You will also have the opportunity to be part of the discussion and debate on resolutions pertaining to issues that are important to all our children throughout the state. This year, *Suffolk Region* will be in charge of Floor Management for the convention sessions, which gives you the opportunity to be directly involved in the process. When planning your budgets for next year, remember to include monies that will allow representatives from your unit to bring your voice to the convention floor. Hope to see you in Niagara Falls in November!



### ***Why We Should Say “No Way” to GEA***

By Lisa Rawlinson, Family Engagement Chairperson

Do you ever feel that year after year we are told the same frustrating information during budget season? And, why do administrators place a huge emphasis on the abolishment of the GEA?

Community members may not be aware that the GEA is one of the contributing factors to the erosion of a school district’s ability to provide programs and services for our children.

How does GEA impact public schools year after year?

In 2009, the NYS Legislature found a \$10 billion deficit GAP in the state budget; it needed to be **Eliminated**; they made an **Adjustment**. \$2.14 billion was “adjusted” from the state aid to public schools. In the 2010-2011 budget year, the state again implemented a GEA in the amount of \$2.79 billion; by 2012-2013 state aid to schools was less than that in 2010-2011.

Budget funding for public schools is generated from tax levy revenues (property taxes), fund balances and reserves and state aid. The GEA results in districts experiencing multimillion dollar funding shortages year after year. Locally, districts are left scrambling trying to determine how to deliver programs and services to the students. Community members listen in frustration as they are told of the cuts needed just to meet yearly cost increases.

As superintendents and BOE members ramp up their efforts to pressure legislators to eliminate the GEA, what better way to show the NYS governor that voters will not tolerate the erosion of our public school programs and communities? Borrowing from a recently aired commercial, “Let’s Get Our Billions Back.” Let’s get OUR billions back By Saying “**No Way to the GEA.**”



***Reflections 2015***

Suffolk Region PTA is proud to announce that we had 34 New York State winners and 10 winners who were recognized by National PTA. For a list of winners, please follow the link at <http://www.suffolkpta.org>

***Bullying...What to Do?***

Please visit the National PTA website to learn what families, students, and school staff can do to create a healthy environment free of bullying. Check out "Connect 4 Respect." <http://www.pta.org>



***Date to Remember***

New Officers' Training- June 4 - Candlewood Middle School

Suffolk by the Sea-July 18- Melville Marriott