

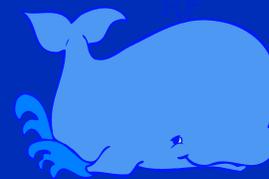
Suffolk Region

PTA[®]

everychild.one voice.[®]

Linda Loverde, Editor

Dimensions



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Upcoming Events

Oct 24: Fall Conference/
Floor Management Team
Nesaquake MS, St. James

Nov 15-17: NYS PTA
Convention Saratoga
Springs

Dec 6-7: Reflection Drop-
Off, Seneca MS

Jan 16: Presidents' &
Principals' Dinner, Villa
Lombardi

Jan 30: Winter Workshops

March 1-2: NYS PTA
Legislation/Education
Conference, Albany

March 8: Suffolk Region
Legislative Forum,
ESBOCES Sherwood Center

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A Message from the Region Director Jacqueline Wilson

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you back to the new school year and thank you for making the commitment to be a leader in your PTA! We have an important role in supporting the education of our children and making the choice to do what we can to ensure that all children are spoken for when it comes to receiving what they need to be successful in school.

Our Suffolk Region Board of Managers was disappointed that the Town Hall meeting scheduled here on Long Island was cancelled. I know many felt "cheated" that they did not get to make a statement or ask a question about the Common Core and Testing and PTA has taken a lot of criticism for not speaking out on behalf of our children, but nothing could be further from the truth. NYS PTA reached out to our members for their input about these issues and from that came the talking points for their meetings. From the office in Albany, there is the unique ability to speak and meet with the policy makers from all of the state organizations who make decisions regarding education. Our NYS PTA officers and staff have been doing just that for many months, the results of which are included in the weekly information you have received from Lana Ajemian, our State President. They have testified at hearings, and attempted to put together these forums with the commissioner as a way to bring the public input to our officials. Together with NYSUT, a "Common Core Booklet" was written to explain what it is and how it affects our children. There has been additional information created along with our educational partners including "Common Ground on Common Core" and "Getting to the Core" both available on the NYS website. As a PTA unit, you can and should have an informed discussion about the implementation of the common core standards and testing. Your membership can address your concerns through letters and emails to Albany. The more we do this, the louder our voices will be. The cancellation of this forum does not mean that PTA is not continuing to address your concerns and the needs of our children. Please be assured that we will continue our advocacy efforts to effect the changes that we believe are important in the implementation of the common core standards. Dialogue with the commissioner's office continues and will also be carried further to our legislators in Albany.

To that end, may I suggest that *Increasing Advocacy* be one of your goals for the coming year. One way that your PTA can work on this goal is to attend the NYS PTA Convention in Saratoga Springs, from November 15-17. There is no better place to see "advocacy in action" than at our annual convention. This year, there will not only be timely and topical workshops but delegates will come together in three general sessions to debate and discuss the resolutions which are the basis for *Where We Stand*, the document which states our positions and which leads us to where we will go with our legislators in lobbying for action. This year's convention will be bringing to the floor, three new resolutions. I urge your unit to look over the content of these resolutions which were part of your convention packet mailed in September, in order to direct your delegates what position to take on these when voting at convention in November.

The responsibility of floor management this year will be with Suffolk Region PTA, and we can use all of your help! If you plan on attending convention, please consider volunteering to be a part of our Floor Management Team. Contact our Team Leader, Joan Wabnik, treasurer@suffolkpta.org for further information. At our annual Fall Conference on October 24th, we will have a session on Floor Management Training for those who will be volunteering with us, and we will have a full session of workshops including one to discuss the *Resolutions* that will be brought to the floor at convention as well as one addressing the issues with the *Common Core and Testing*. I hope to see many of you there.

A reminder that our Danielle Alduino Award Scholarship Application is now available. A HS PTA/PTSA may nominate one senior for this award, which is given for outstanding efforts in community service. The information on the award has been mailed to all unit presidents and can also be found on our website. I wish you a successful year with your PTA. As always, please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns, we are always only a phone call or an email away.

Meeting Dates:

Monday Oct 7

Wednesday Nov 6

Monday January 6

Monday February 3

Monday March 3

Monday April 7

Monday May 5

Monday June 2

Location: BOCES

Sherwood Center

ADs:Section 1:

Linda Pomerantz

Section 2:

Maureen Shanley

Section 3:

Chris Geed

Section 4:

Kathy Williams

Section 5:

Lesley Longmcleod

Section 6:Sue Brandes

What is the Suffolk Region Board of Managers?

The Suffolk Region Board of Managers (BOM) is the counterpart to the Unit Executive Board. It comprises the Officers of Suffolk Region PTA and the Chairs of the Standing Committees, Assistant Directors, Council Presidents and Special Assignees.

They meet once a month at the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Sherwood Center in Holbrook.

Each month reports are given by the Chairmen, in order to keep the units apprised of current information.

Council Presidents and

their Vice Presidents are encouraged to attend. Any concerns or issues in your units/council can be addressed at this meeting.



Assistant Directors (ADs)

Every September a letter is sent to each unit president informing them of the Assistant Director assigned to their unit, more commonly known as their AD. Suffolk Region has 6 ADs who are a direct link or liaison between the unit/council and the region. An AD can be an advisor, friend and confidante. When

working with the unit/council, your AD will maintain strict confidentiality. An AD can explain PTA policy and the benefits of attending workshops and conferences. Maintain a dialogue with your AD and call to introduce yourself if you have not already been contacted. This is the

person to call when a question arises and also when something good happens.

If you haven't already connected with your AD, please contact Lori Fontana for your AD's contact information: **Lori Fontana - Associate Director of Assistant Directors**

lfontana@suffolkpta.org

Assistant Director Sections:

1. Babylon, Bay Shore, Connetquot, Copiague, Deer Park, Fire Island, Kings Park, Lindenhurst, West Babylon, Wyandanch, WS BOCES.
2. Bayport-Bluepoint, Central Islip, East Islip, Islip, North Babylon, Sayville, West Islip.
3. Brentwood, Huntington, Smithtown, South Huntington.
4. Commack, Elwood, Half Hollow Hills, Harborfields, Hauppauge, Northport/East Northport.
5. Comsewogue, Middle Country, Patchogue-Medford, Port Jefferson, Rocky Point, Sachem.
6. Amagansett, Center Moriches, East Hampton, Eastport-South Manor, East Quogue, Greenport, Hampton Bays, Longwood, Mattituck-Cutchogue, Montauk, Oysterponds, Quogue, Riverhead, Sag Harbor, Shoreham-Wading River, South Country, Southampton, Southold, Three Village, Westhampton Beach.

Outreach— Are you having a Meet the Candidate Night?

Suffolk Region PTA provides a wealth of work-shop opportunities throughout the year. Please refer to our website, www.suffolkpta.org for the dates and locations for these trainings. We do understand, however that at times there are difficulties in a unit that may not necessarily be addressed at our trainings.

Suffolk Region Board of Managers members are

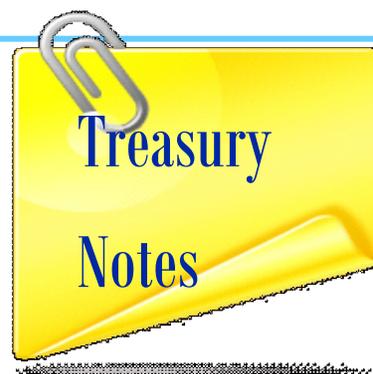
available to come in to a unit that needs help addressing any concerns or issues that involve PTA protocol, procedures, structure and function.

We can provide a School of Instruction that will get your unit back on track or clear up other problems that the unit may be experiencing. In addition, Suffolk Region will provide Board of Managers

members as moderators for your School Board elections' **Meet the Candidate Night** program. If you currently have a date for that evening and wish us to come in to help, please email me at the address below as soon as possible.

Karen Steigert- Associate Director of Outreach

organizationaloutreach@suffolkpta.org



Some recommendations from our treasurer:

- ◆ Two (2) signatures on every check
- ◆ No checks made out to cash
- ◆ Two people to count out funds received before the treasurer receives and signs for it.
- ◆ Approve budget before any funds are raised or spent
- ◆ Retain copies of minutes to document any budget amendments
- ◆ Maintain check register and a ledger for each budget line
- ◆ Bank statement to be reconciled by an appointed officer
- ◆ Treasurer's report at every meeting and annual report at year end

- ◆ Annual Audit

IRS requires all PTAs to file the 990 tax return by November 15th

Joan Wabnik - Treasurer

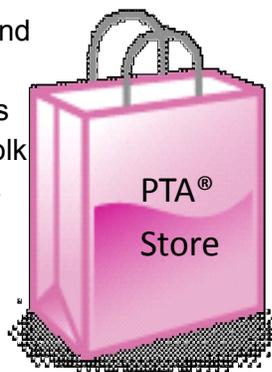
treasurer@suffolkpta.org

Do You like Shopping? Check out our PTA Store!

Our PTA Store is well-stocked with what you want. We carry a wide selection of PTA pins, and supplies.

We even carry Robert's Rules of Order to keep your meetings running

smoothly. Every unit and council should have a copy. Our PTA Store is available at most Suffolk Region PTA events as well as online at www.suffolkpta.org.



Denise DeMatteo - PTA Store

ptastore@suffolkpta.org

Registrar

Just a little reminder when registering for Suffolk Region events...

- Each check must have two signatures.
- The contact person should provide the district, PTA code and PTA name on all registration forms. Please write as clearly as possible or type the information.
- The Presidents' and Principals' Dinner is coming up in January. I need to know the correct spelling of all attendees so that I can correctly make seating charts and place cards.

I enjoy receiving emails from you but I don't really know all of you by your first name. When emailing me, please include the district, PTA code and PTA name so that I can get back to you as soon as possible. Also email addresses must be written exactly as they are...no abbreviations or missing numbers or letters. Please remember your email carrier especially if you have recently changed from one to the other.

Theresa Raso, Registrar

registration@suffolkpta.org



Reflections "Believe, Dream & Inspire"

"Believe, Dream & Inspire" is the theme for this year's Reflections program. Resources for parents, Units and Chairs can be found at NYSPTA.org/Reflections as well as the links for the on-line student application process. Unit Presidents, please make sure that you have submitted the contact information for your Reflections chairman to Robin Hudak. There have been several Reflections updates via email and if you have not received any, then your contact information has yet to be submitted.

This year National PTA will host several Webinars every third Tuesday of the month at 8pm. Please take this opportunity to participate in the instructional step by step process on how to register your unit and advancing students as you follow along with the Webinar instructor. The links and dates can be found by visiting—NYSPTA.org/Reflections. If there is anything we can do to help you with please contact us at reflections@suffolkpta.org. The Region drop off dates will be Friday, December 6th from 4pm - 8pm and Saturday, December 7th from 9am -12pm both at the Seneca MS in the Sachem SD. We look forward to working with you this year and wish you a successful program.

Kelly Short and Robin Hudak, Reflections chairmen

Membership Notice

Please remember that all units **MUST** verify their membership cards on the NYS PTA website; www.nyspta.org. In the lower bottom corner click on Membership Update, then enter unit code and continue. This must be done to request more membership cards.

Also a reminder that you must pay for 90% of your initial membership cards and once the payment is posted with NYS PTA, you can send an email to membership@suffolkpta.org to request additional cards. You can only order 48 cards at a time.



Debbie Epifane, Membership chairman