



### **The Historian's Report 2017~2018**

The **66th Annual Spring Conference** was called to order on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook with Suffolk Region Director, Kathy Vento presiding. Debbie Epifane was the Chairman of the Business Meeting and Vendor Showcase. Terry Raso served as the Business Manager. There was a total of 157 voting delegates, 43 non-voting delegates, 11 guests and 31 exhibitors for a total attendance 242. Members representing 52 Units and Councils were welcomed.

NYS Field Support Coordinator and Immediate Past Suffolk Region Director Jackie Wilson gave the inspiration. The Parliamentarian for the event was Susan Lipman.

NYS PTA Vice President Gracemarie Rozea brought greetings from NYS PTA. Gracemarie Rozea presented Kathy Vento with flowers and a certificate. Additionally, Joan Wabnik, Jackie Wilson, Lori Fontana, and CJ Thompson were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their service to NYS PTA.

The following 2017-2018 Suffolk Region PTA Officers were installed by NYS PTA Vice President Gracemarie Rozea:

**Region Director:** Joan Wabnik

**Associate Directors:** Linda Loverde, Maureen Shanley, Laura Paehr, Denise DeMatteo and Maureen Meier

**Recording Secretary:** Karen Steigert

**Corresponding Secretary:** Lisa Rawlinson

**Treasurer:** Sue Brandes

Laurie Rodriguez and Glenn Werner were elected to the **Nominating Committee**. Tanya Lindenberg is the Alternate.

The following awards were presented:

**Kathy Vento** was presented with the **NYS PTA Golden Oak Award** in recognition of her dedication. The **NYS PTA Jenkins Memorial Scholarships** was awarded to Brianna Serra of Half Hollow Hills High School East. The **Alice Willett Leadership Award:** *Unit:* Tooker Avenue *Individual:* Jennifer Mead, Alanna Delacruz, Christine Burke and Doreen Walter. Individuals received Leadership Pins and Certificates. We were fortunate to have 21 **Reflections** winners that moved on to NYS. *We had 18 NYS PTA Awards of Merit and 3*

*Awards of Excellence. Membership Growth Award:* Total membership – 54,808. 23 units achieved membership growth 5% - 9%. 67 units achieved membership growth of 10%.

**Recognitions:** Kathy Vento recognized Joyce Cattani, Debbie Epifane and Terry Raso for their years of service to Suffolk Region PTA and presented them with a small token gift.

### **Suffolk Region Sponsors and Participates in the Following Events**

**New Officer's Training** was held on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at Dawnwood Middle School. Maureen Shanley chaired this event. Approximately 220 attendees had a variety of Officers' Workshops to assist them with the preparations for their new positions. The Delegate Training was canceled. *Knowledge builds strong leaders and strong PTA's.*

**The 22nd Annual Suffolk-By-The-Sea** took place on Saturday, July 15th at the Melville Marriott. Kathy Vento chaired this event. Four sessions of workshops were given by both PTA members and outside presenters, covering topics from specific job training to advocacy and educational issues to more than 260 registrants.

The next event for **Team Suffolk** was the **NYS Summer Leadership Conference**. It was held from July 21<sup>st</sup> - July 23<sup>rd</sup> at Utica College. *Team Suffolk* took advantage of the opportunity to network, receive valuable training and leadership development. The Conference offered an energetic boost to the attendees with new ideas for workshops and lots of additional information to share.

**Board of Managers Orientation and Training** was held at the Eastern Suffolk BOCES Sherwood Center in Holbrook on August 24th. All new and returning Chairmen, Assistant Directors, Executive Assignees and Council Presidents joined together for an informative evening of training, as well as the review of Bylaws and Procedures. The Suffolk Region PTA Executive Committee facilitated the training. Dana Platin, NYS PTA Vice President, was present and brought greetings from NYS PTA.

On August 31<sup>st</sup>, the **Membership and Reflections Kick-Off Training** was held at Walter G. O'Connell High School in Copiague. Reflection Chairperson, Sherry McKittrick and Corresponding Secretary, Lisa Rawlinson gave the Reflection Workshop. Additionally, the Membership Workshop was given by Membership Chairperson, Cecilia Francisquini and Associate Director, Laura Paehr. The presenters shared information, ideas and provided support to the over 100 attendees as they began their Membership and Reflections campaigns.

The PTA Store Chairman, Lynda Lupoletti had amazing new items for sale, as well as the PTA Pins that always fly off the shelves!

The ever-popular **Arts in Education Showcase**, chaired by Associate Director Denise DeMatteo, was held on Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at North Babylon High School. Over 100 parents and children attended this family night of fun. These enthusiastic guests had the opportunity to visit with more than 75 vendors and enjoy approximately 25 performances. This was an amazing chance for students to meet and interact with the artists and performers.

The Annual **Fall Conference** was held at Islip High School on Thursday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and was chaired by Laura Paehr. There were two sessions of workshops. The first session offered a multiple choice of educational experiences for the close to 100 attendees who participated. The second session offered specific Floor Management Training for those who were registered to assist at the NYS PTA Convention. Additionally, Suffolk Region's Executive Committee presented a Q & A session entitled "No Question Too Small – You Ask, We Answer". This roundtable was informative and very well received.

*Leading the Way to Advocate!* The **NYS PTA Convention** was held in Niagara Falls, from November 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> with approximately 25 members from Suffolk Region attending. This year, Floor Management was split between Suffolk Region and Western Region.

The Annual **Presidents' and Principals' Dinner** was held on Thursday, January 18, 2018 at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. Region Director Joan Wabnik, welcomed over 380 attendees. Denise DeMatteo was the chairman of this event. NYS PTA Vice President Dana Platin gave the Inspiration. NYS PTA President Gracemarie Rozea brought greetings from NYS PTA. The extremely talented SCMEA All-County Jazz Ensemble welcomed the attendees as they entered and gave a wonderful musical presentation. The Brentwood ROTC led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Suffolk Region PTA gratefully acknowledged S.C.O.P.E. for the donation of the microphones and sound from Design and Audio Visual.

The following awards were given:

**2017 PARP AWARD:** Tamarac PTA

**Peg Davis Leadership Award:** Linda Loverde

**Ted Brigham Teacher of the Year Award:** Kathleen Lemma, Longwood School District

**Danielle Alduino Scholarship Award:** Sarah Adamo, Smithtown High School

**Distinguished Service Award:** Lisa Rawlinson

**On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Winter Workshops** were held at Sagamore Middle School in Schem School District and Chaired by Linda Loverde. A choice of 5 workshops were offered and over 130 people in attendance.

**March 2018** came *In Like a Lion* and stayed that way until the end of the month. Inclement weather did not prevent an outstanding evening for both the **Eastern Suffolk and Western Suffolk BOCES Showcase and Dinner**. From the presentation of the many BOCES programs to the very delicious dinner prepared by the culinary students, a wonderful time was had by all. The highlight of the evenings was the presentation of the PTA Scholarships. Congratulations to Georgia Denardo and Nicholas Trentini of Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Aaliyah Almanzar and Steven Khan of Western Suffolk BOCES.

Our **Reflections Showcase & Ceremony** was held on Thursday, April 20th at West Babylon Jr. High School in West Babylon. Outstanding student work was showcased. Each student received a certificate for their displayed work and the winning entries received special recognition. Our Reflections chairmen, Sherry McKittrick was responsible for coordinating this year's program.



*Respectfully Submitted,  
Stephanie Gurin  
Historian, Suffolk Region PTA*