



## **The Historian Report 2019~2020**

The **68th Annual Spring Conference** was called to order on May 16, 2019 at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook with Suffolk Region Director, Joan Wabnik presiding. Treasurer Sherry McKittrick was the Chairperson. The attendees representing 53 Units and Councils were welcomed. There was a total of 109 voting delegates, 39 non-voting delegates, 3 guests and 46 exhibitors for a total attendance 197. The successful event was extremely enjoyable and informative, and filled with presentation of awards and recognitions.

The NYS PTA Bylaws Chair/Suffolk Region Award Chair Jackie Wilson gave the Inspiration. The Parliamentarian for the event was Susan Lipman. NYS PTA President Lorey Zaman brought greetings from NYS PTA.

The following 2019-2020 Suffolk Region PTA Officers were installed by NYS PTA President Lorey Zaman:

**Region Director:** Joan Wabnik

**Associate Directors:** Debbie Epifane, Denise DeMatteo, Debbie Lubben, Laura Paehr, and Kelly Short

**Recording Secretary:** Wendy Natalone

**Corresponding Secretary:** Lisa Rawlinson

**Treasurer:** Sherry McKittrick

**Nominating Committee** election was completed. Angela Campagna and Ana Favious were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. Sheila Erickson was elected as the alternate.

The following awards were presented:

The **NYS PTA Jenkins Memorial Scholarships** was awarded to Amanda Friedman from Smithtown High School West, Jessica Nischo from Sachem North High School and Gianna Wheeler from Babylon Jr Sr High School.

The **Stanley Marcus Winner** was Matthew Anderson.

The **Helen Maloney Newsletter Award** was presented to Washington Drive Primary.



**Alice Willet Award** was awarded to the following individuals: Lynda Lupoletti, Carmen Vales, Camille Calabrese and Karen Wedding-Viola. Karen Wedding-Viola also received the **Advocate in Action Award**.

**Membership** – The membership theme for 2019-2020 “Change Today Embrace Tomorrow, Join Now” The membership total for Suffolk Region for the 2019/2020 year is 50,176 versus last year’s total of 53,485. **NYS PTA Membership Awards Badges** are listed towards the end of this report. **The National PTA School of Excellence Award:** Merrimac Elementary PTA from the Sachem School District.

**Recognitions** – Region Director Joan Wabnik recognized Associate Director Stephanie Scaduto and Recording Secretary Karen Steigert for their service to Suffolk Region PTA.

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

**Officer’s Roundtable (a.k.a. New Officer’s Training)** was held on Thursday June 6, 2019 at West Islip High School. Associate Director Denise DeMatteo chaired this event. This training offered Officers’ Workshops (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) to assist 169 attendees covering 53 units and 19 districts with the preparations for their new positions. There was also a special first-time Officers and first time Officers’ Roundtable attendees where they were able to meet youth members and receive a special token.

On July 9, 2019, at the Macy\*s Roosevelt Field store, Macy\*s announced and presented the winner of their **Suffolk County LI Elementary School Teacher Recognition Contest** Honoree: Carol Karson from Hiawatha Elementary School.

**The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Suffolk-By-The-Sea** was held on Saturday, July 13, 2019 at the Melville Marriott. Associate Director Debbie Epifane chaired this information packed event. There were 192 people registered and who were enthusiastic to attend four of the 27 offered workshops. The workshops were presented by both PTA members and outside presenters; we had 10 new presenters this year. These workshops covered topics of specific PTA jobs, functions and purpose, advocacy and educational issues. The feedback was that the event was beneficial, useful and enjoyable.

**NYS Summer Leadership Conference** themed “PTA is Our Super Power, What is Yours?” was held from July 26 & 27, 2019 at The Desmond in Albany, NY. Attendees reported that, as always, what a fantastic experience full of wonderful information with



exceptional training, leadership development and networking. It is an experience which is highly recommended and encouraged.

**Board of Managers Orientation and Training** was held at the BOCES Center at Sequoia High School in Holbrook on August 15, 2019. The Suffolk Region PTA Executive Committee facilitated the training for new and returning Chairpersons, Assistant Directors, Executive Assignees and Council Presidents. The evening was a productive, collaborative and all-around great start to a hope of a wonderful 2019-2020 PTA year.

**Membership and Reflections Kick-Off Training** was held at Copiague Middle School in Copiague on August 22, 2019. Associate Director Denise DeMatteo chaired this informative event. Treasurer Sherry McKittrick and Reflections chair Lynda Lupoletti presented Reflections kicked-off and Associate Director Debbie Lubben presented Membership kick-off. There were a total of 39 attendees who were attentive with the information being provided to them as well as their questions answered as they prepare to begin their Membership and Reflections campaigns.

**Arts in Education Showcase**, chaired by Nancy Bott, was held on Friday, September 27, 2019 at North Babylon High School. There were 93 Directory Listings for the Arts in Education booklet. The 43 attendees were able to visit 42 vendors/tables to get wonderful information on numerous programs and were also able to enjoy several snippets 19 performances.

**Fall Conference** was held at Candlewood Middle School on Thursday, October 24, 2019 and was chaired by Associate Director Debbie Epifane. This year there was only one session and attendees had to pick one of 5 informative workshops: “Diversity in PTA”, “990 EZ Form”, “Ready...Get Set...Let’s Go”, “Take a Ride on the Energy Bus”, and “Cracker Barrel” which was a question and answer roundtable with members of Suffolk Region Executive Committee. Workshops were well-received.

**NYS PTA Convention** was held in Tarrytown, NY from November 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Suffolk Region had 33 members attend, which included several “first timers”. Debbie Epifane did a phenomenal job as the team leader of Team Suffolk for floor management at the convention. Her leadership and organization of Team Suffolk along with everyone’s hard work was acknowledged and appreciated by NYS PTA. The convention was packed with vendors and workshops. It was a highly informative and a very enjoyable event.

**Presidents’ and Principals’ Dinner** was held on Thursday, January 16, 2020 at Villa Lombardi’s in Holbrook with an energetic 307 attendees, 18 district, 74 units and 4 WSBOCES SEPTAs. Region Director Joan Wabnik, welcomed the attendees. Education Chairperson Bevin Llanes chaired this event. NYS PTA Field Support Coordinator Lori



Fontana gave the Inspiration. NYS PTA Vice President Dana Platin brought greetings from NYS PTA. The immeasurably talented SCMEA All-County Jazz Ensemble provided such inviting entertainment as the attendees entered the banquet hall as well as gave an amazing musical presentation at the beginning of the dinner. The Brentwood ROTC presented the Color Guard and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Suffolk Region PTA gratefully recognizes S.C.O.P.E. for the donation of the microphones and sound from *Design and Audio Visual*.

Suffolk Region welcomed and congratulated **THREE** newly chartered units this year: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School PTA** in Wyandanch School District, **South Haven PTA** in South Country School District and **North Babylon SEPTA** in North Babylon School District.

The following awards were given:

**2019 PARP AWARD:** Tamarac PTA (Sachem School District) They conducted a seven-month program entitled “Choose Your Own Reading Adventure.”

**Peg Davis Leadership Award:** Associate Director Debbie Epifane

**Ted Brigham Teacher of the Year Award:** Carolyn Kelly from Verne W. Critz Elementary School in South Country School District

**Danielle Alduino Scholarship Award:** Matthew Anderson from Smithtown West High School

**Distinguished Service Award:** Recording Secretary Wendy Natalone.

**On February 06, 2020, Winter Workshops** were held at Sagamore Middle School and chaired by Treasurer Sherry McKitttrick. Several informative workshop choices were offered to the 47 people in attendance. Feedback from attendees was positive.

**Longwood Legislative Breakfast** was held on February 1, 2020 at the Longwood Middle School in Middle Island. This well-attended event is sponsored by Longwood School District, Eastern Suffolk BOCES and Suffolk Region PTA. Attendees received information from presentations by the Executive Director of the NYS Council of School Superintendents Mr. Charles Dedrick and Chief Operating Officer of Eastern Suffolk BOCES Ms. Julie Lutz. One major point made during the presentations was the need for additional funding for mental health issues in our schools. Following the presentations, attendees were also able to participate in a Question and Answer period with State Senators LaValle and Flanagan as well as Assemblymen Palumbo, Garbarino, Engelbright, Smith, DeStefano and Fitzpatrick. Legislative Advocacy chairman, Gerry Bringmann represented Suffolk Region at the microphone, asking questions covering several topics.

**Legislative Summit and Lobby** was held on February 9-10, 2020 in Albany to advocate for our children for mental health support for students and families; Funding for enough guidance counselors, school nurses, arts and music for children; Recovery High Schools



and programs for students with substance use disorders; School safety measures; and Opposition to the legalization of recreational marijuana. Team Suffolk members as always were present and strong advocates.

**Western Suffolk BOCES Showcase and Dinner** was to be held on March 19, 2020.

**Eastern Suffolk BOCES Showcase and Dinner** was to be held on March 25, 2020.

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, these highly anticipated and attended events were cancelled. We all were disappointed that we were not able to enjoy the delicious dinner prepared by the culinary students nor hear about the amazing programs offered. Despite the unprecedented circumstances, Suffolk PTA is proud to congratulate Mayeri Hernandez From West Babylon HS and Roasanna Semetsis from Commack High School of **Western Suffolk BOCES** and Bradley Altman from Sacehm East High School and Kadree Blake from Islip High School of **Eastern Suffolk BOCES** as recipients of the PTA Scholarships.

**Reflections Showcase & Ceremony:** The theme for the 2019/2020 year was “*Look Within*”. There was incredibly talented work submitted by numerous students from several schools. Suffolk Region was fortunate to have 74 entries move onto the NYS level resulting in **11 Reflections Awards of Merit** recipients: Brianna Jones - North Babylon HS PTSA; Brynn Burke - Idle Hour PTA; Dylan LaPorte - John Mandracchia/Sawmill Intermediate School PTA; Carter Altholtz - Paul J. Gelinis JHS PTSA; Christopher Addeo - Elwood Secondary PTSA; Airlea Deutscher - Bayport-Bluepoint High School PTSA; Christopher Agnello - Nokomis PTA; Christian Puopolo - Setauket School PTA; Emma Eicher - Grundy Avenue School PTA; Andrew Eicher - Grundy Avenue School PTA; Ava Carroll - Woods Road PTA and **2 Award of Excellence** recipients: Kayla Maloney - Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA and Ava Della Pietra - Paul J. Gelinis JHS PTSA. Lynda Lupoletti was the Reflections chair. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 pandemic the showcase and ceremony was cancelled. The award recipients will have their certificates mailed to them.

### **NYS PTA Membership Awards 2019/2020:**

#### ➤ **September 2019 – Early Bird Award Badge and Drawing**

Suffolk Region did not have any drawing winners, but 67 units earned this award badge:

05-023 Deauville Gardens PTA; 05-024 Great Neck Road PTA; 05-026 Copiague Middle School PTA; 05-032 Albany Avenue Elem. School PTA; 05-038 William Rall PTA; 05-042 Harding Avenue School PTA; 05-047 West Babylon Junior High School PTA; 05-067 Belmont Elementary School PTA; 05-075 Parliament Place PTA; 05-080 Manetuck Elementary PTA; 05-083 Udall Road Middle School PTA; 05-084 West Islip High School PTSA; 05-088 Bayview PTA; 05-092 Sunquam Elementary School PTA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA; 05-102 Candlewood Middle School PTA; 05-106 Andrew T. Morrow Elementary PTA; 05-109 Washington Primary School PTA; 05-111 Jefferson Elementary School PTA; 05-114 Stimson Middle School PTA; 05-116 Birchwood PTA; 05-118 Maplewood PTA; 05-124 Walt Whitman HS PTA; 05-125 Countrywood PTA; 05-128 Indian Hollow Primary PTA; 05-144 Elwood Secondary PTSA; 05-151 Mills Pond Elementary PTA; 05-158 Vanderbilt Elementary PTA; 05-164 Pulaski Road School PTA; 05-173 Grundy Avenue School PTA; 05-174 Waverly Avenue PTA; 05-176 Harley Avenue Primary PTA; 05-178 Nokomis PTA; 05-188 Mt.





Pleasant Elementary PTA; 05-217 Rocky Point Elementary PTA; 05-221 Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School PTA; 05-232 Thomas J. Lahey PTA; 05-237 Coram PTA; 05-242 Stagecoach Elementary School PTA; 05-243 Bay Elementary PTA; 05-249 Barton Elementary School PTA; 05-321 West Hampton Beach Elementary School PTA; 05-334 Hauppauge Middle School PTA; 05-336 Merrimac School PTA; 05-337 Cayuga Elementary School PTA; 05-344 Ralph G. Reed Middle School PTA; 05-346 New Lane Memorial PTA; 05-350 Boyle Road Elem. School PTA; 05-355 Tamarac PTA; 05-366 Half Hollow Hills HS West PTSA; 05-371 Sagamore Middle School PTSA; 05-376 Idle Hour PTA; 05-395 Commack Road Elementary School PTA; 05-407 Accomsett Middle School PTA; 05-419 Cherokee Street School PTA; 05-438 Edward J. Bosti PTA; 05-439 Babylon K-6 PTA; 05-443 Oldfield PTA; 05-451 John Pearl Elementary PTA; 05-454 South Ocean Middle School PTA; 05-472 Elwood Middle School PTA; 05-477 Centereach High School PTSA; 05-480 Academy Street School PTA; 05-515 Forest Brook Elementary School PTA; 05-536 Washington Drive Primary School PTA; 05-542 Nesaquake Middle School PTA; 05-546 Samoset Middle School PTSA.

➤ **October to December 2019 – “NEW” Region Membership Olympics**

Congratulations to Hudson Region PTA for earning first place and the other regions for their participation...it was all very close!

➤ **January 2020 – Terrific Teacher/Super Staff Award Badge and Drawing**

Suffolk Region had one drawing winner: 05-032 Albany Avenue Elem. School PTA plus there were 17 other units who earned this award badge:

05-032 Albany Avenue Elem. School PTA; 05-045 Santapogue School PTA; 05-083 Udall Road Middle School PTA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA; 05-114 Stimson Middle School PTA; 05-188 Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA; 05-198 Cordello Ave Elementary School PTA; 05-220 Newfield High School PTSA; 5-237 Coram PTA; 05-324 Selden Middle School PTA; 05-334 Hauppauge Middle School PTA; 05-336 Merrimac School PTA; 05-340 West Hollow MS PTA; 05-355 Tamarac PTA; 05-362 Sachem SEPTA; 05-395 Commack Road Elementary School PTA; 05-451 John Pearl Elementary PTA; 05-508 Wing Elementary School PTA.

➤ **February 2020 – Students Rock 20%+ Award Badge and Drawing**

There were no drawing winners from Suffolk, but there were 35 units earning this award badge:

05-040 Lindenhurst Senior HS PTSA; 05-041 Lindenhurst MS PTA; 05-048 West Babylon High School PTSA; 05-084 West Islip High School PTSA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA; 05-100 Harborfields High School PTSA; 05-102 Candlewood Middle School PTA; 05-111 Jefferson Elementary School PTA; 05-119 Oakwood Primary Center PTA; 05-163 Northport HS PTSA; 05-209 Islip HS PTSA; 05-220 Newfield High School PTSA; 05-221 Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School PTA; 05-238 Longwood HS PTSA; 05-348 Longwood Junior HS PTSA; 05-354 Hauppauge High School PTSA; 05-365 Central Islip High PTSA; 05-366 Half Hollow Hills HS West PTSA; 05-371 Sagamore Middle School PTSA; 05-373 Comsewogue High School PTSA; 05-385 East Islip HS PTSA; 05-442 Smithtown High School West PTSA; 05-477 Centereach High School PTSA; 05-496 Copiague Senior High School PTSA; 05-502 Pierson High School PTSA; 05-503 Patchogue-Medford HS PTSA; 05-509 Brentwood High School PTSA; 05-513 Bayport-Bluepoint High School PTSA; 05-523 Bellport High School PTSA; 05-526 Hampton Bays Secondary School PTSA; 05-531 Mattituck-Cutchogue Secondary PTSA; 05-546 Samoset Middle School PTSA; 05-547 Smithtown High School East PTSA; 05-550 Port Jefferson MS/HS PTSA; 05-570 Anthony Alfano PTA.

➤ **March 2020 – Students Rock 30%+ Award Badge and Drawing**



There were no drawing winners from Suffolk, but there were 14 units earning this award badge:

05-040 Lindenhurst Senior HS PTSA; 05-041 Lindenhurst MS PTA; 05-048 West Babylon High School PTSA; 05-119 Oakwood Primary Center PTA; 05-385 East Islip HS PTSA; 05-442 Smithtown High School West PTSA; 05-496 Copiague Senior High School PTSA; 05-502 Pierson High School PTSA; 05-503 Patchogue-Medford HS PTSA; 05-513 Bayport-Bluepoint High School PTSA; 05-531 Mattituck-Cutchogue Secondary PTSA; 05-547 Smithtown High School East PTSA; 05-550 Port Jefferson MS/HS PTSA; 05-570 Anthony Alfano PTA

➤ **March 2020 – Men Matter/March Madness Award Badge and Drawing**

There were no drawing winners from Suffolk, but there were 34 units earning this award badge:

05-048 West Babylon High School PTSA; 05-084 West Islip High School PTSA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA; 05-103 Flower Hill PTA; 05-119 Oakwood Primary Center PTA; 05-138 Fifth Avenue Elem. School PTA; 05-140 East Northport Middle School PTA; 05-151 Mills Pond Elementary PTA; 05-164 Pulaski Road School PTA; 05-202 Timber Point Elementary PTA; 05-221 Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School PTA; 05-238 Longwood HS PTSA; 05-350 Boyle Road Elem. School PTA; 05-365 Central Islip High PTSA; 05-366 Half Hollow Hills HS West PTSA; 05-377 Lincoln Avenue PTA; 05-383 Saxton MS PTA; 05-385 East Islip HS PTSA; 05-442 Smithtown High School West PTSA; 05-459 Canaan Elementary School PTA; 05-464 East Hampton Middle School PTA; 05-469 Huntington High School PTSA; 05-474 Sag Harbor Elem. School PTA; 05-480 Academy Street School PTA; 05-496 Copiague Senior High School PTSA; 05-508 Wing Elementary School PTA; 05-509 Brentwood High School PTSA; 05-513 Bayport-Bluepoint High School PTSA; 05-523 Bellport High School PTSA; 05-526 Hampton Bays Secondary School PTSA; 05-536 Washington Drive Primary School PTA; 05-547 Smithtown High School East PTSA; 05-550 Port Jefferson MS/HS PTSA; 05-568 Wyandanch High School PTSA

The **PTA Store** is at each Suffolk Region PTA event offering a vast variety of PTA pins and other PTA items for sale. The chairperson for the store is Lynda Lupoletti and she can be contacted at [PTAstore@suffolkpta.org](mailto:PTAstore@suffolkpta.org) if anything is needed.

Unfortunately, the popular and quickly booked **Meet the Candidate** nights which are held at multiple schools over several dates were cancelled due to the Corona Virus pandemic (COVID 19).

Suffolk Region strongly encouraged “getting the word out” that the participation with the Census 2020 is very important as it affects representation, money for infrastructure and education.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Vicki Algieri  
Historian, Suffolk Region PTA

