



The Historian Report 2020~2021

The **69th Annual Spring Conference**, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was held virtually and no exhibitors were present. Lifetouch did provide 5 vouchers towards a fall picture package. The meeting was called to order on June 15, 2020 via StartMeeting Video Conferencing with Suffolk Region Director, Joan Wabnik presiding. Associate Director Debbie Lubben was the Chairperson. The attendees representing 75 Units and Councils were welcomed. There was a total of 112 voting delegates, 0 non-voting delegates, 2 guests and 0 exhibitors for a total attendance of 114. The evening still provided to be informative and filled with presentations of awards and recognitions.

The Parliamentarian for the event was Susan Lipman. NYS PTA First Vice President Jane Harsha brought greetings from NYS PTA.

The following proposed slate of Suffolk Region PTA Officers for the 2020/2021 year was presented and elected. NYS PTA First Vice President Jane Harsha offered her congratulations to the newly elected officers for the 2020/2021 year. A formal installation was intended to be planned for a future date.

Region Director: Lori Fontana

Associate Directors: Denise DeMatteo, Debbie Lubben, Laura Paehr, Kelly Short and Vicki Algieri

Recording Secretary: Geri Coleman-Odom

Corresponding Secretary: Wendy Natalone

Treasurer: Sherry McKittrick

Nominating Committee election was completed, and the results were as follows: Maria Sanders and Anne Marie Thomson were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee. Annie Faivus was elected as the alternate.

The following awards were presented:

The **NYS PTA Jenkins Memorial Scholarships** were awarded to Rachel Brown from Smithtown High School West and Connor Coleman from Bellport High School. Suffolk Region also interviewed 2 students from Nassau County, Jessica Sierzega from Valley



Stream South High School and Michael Guglielmo from Sewanhaka High School, who were also awarded scholarships.

The **Helen Maloney Newsletter Award** was not chosen/presented. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no applications were received.

Alice Willet Award was not awarded as in-person trainings have not been held due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NYS PTA Golden Oak Award was presented to Joan Wabnik.

Membership – The membership theme for 2020-2021 was “PTA Your Way, Join Now”. The membership total (dues received) for Suffolk Region for the 2020/2021 year is 33,582 versus last year’s total of 50, 176. **NYS PTA Membership Awards Badges** are listed towards the end of this report.

The National PTA School of Excellence Award Recipient: Merrimac Elementary PTA from the Sachem School District.

Recognitions – Region Director Joan Wabnik recognized Associate Director Debbie Epifane and Corresponding Secretary Lisa Rawlinson for their service to Suffolk Region PTA.

Suffolk Region Sponsors and Participates in the Following Events

Officers’ Roundtable (a.k.a. New Officer’s Training) was held via Zoom over several days in October 2020: 21st was Presidents; 22nd was Secretaries; 28th was Treasurers; and 29th was Vice Presidents. These first-time virtual training sessions were reported to be informative and positive.

The Macy*s **Suffolk County LI Elementary School Teacher Recognition Contest** was not held this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 25th Annual Suffolk-By-The-Sea unfortunately was not held this year to ensure the safety of our members due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

NYS Summer Leadership Conference *themed “Together We Rise”* was held virtually on August 1, 2020. Attendee feedback was that it was an informative and different, but good experience.

Board of Managers Orientation and Training was held virtually via Zoom on September 17, 2020. The Suffolk Region PTA Executive Committee facilitated the training



for new and returning Chairpersons, Assistant Directors, Executive Assignees and Council Presidents.

Membership and Reflections Kick-Off Training was not held this year to ensure the safety of our members due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Arts in Education Showcase was not held this year to ensure the safety of our members due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fall Conference was not held this year to ensure the safety of our members due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, **Officers' Roundtable** was held instead in the fall.

NYS PTA Convention was held virtually on November 13th - 15th, 2020. The theme was "*Embrace Today, Shape Tomorrow*". There were workshops, trainings, networking and a virtual exhibit hall. It was an amazing event; although the in-person aspect was missed, the weekend was an informative, productive and successful experience.

Presidents' and Principals' Dinner unfortunately was not held due to COVID-19. Therefore, the following awards were not presented:

2020 PARP AWARD

Peg Davis Leadership Award

Ted Brigham Teacher of the Year Award

Danielle Alduino Scholarship Award

Distinguished Service Award

The **Stanley Marcus Award** has been awarded to Nate Demchak from Mattituck Junior/Senior High School.

Winter Workshops were held virtually via Zoom this year over several days in February 2021: 2nd was Q&A Roundtable; 4th was Bylaws; 9th was Membership Your Way; 11th was Nominations & Elections; 17th was Fundraising Made Simple. Feedback was very positive for these first-time virtual training sessions.

Longwood Legislative Breakfast was held virtually on February 6, 2021. It was recorded and available to be viewed. The financial stresses that the COVID-19 pandemic has caused the school districts on Long Island along with budget, federal guidelines for funding and economic disadvantage status, NYS funding were topics as well as the legalization and taxation of marijuana (which local legislatures present at this breakfast were not in favor of). Although it was held virtually, it was well attended and provided a tremendous amount of information.



Legislative Summit (and Lobby) was held virtually on February 27, 2021 via Zoom. The session offered:

- Workshop: Digital & Technology Access & Equity
- NYS PTA Issue Briefs: School Aid and State Budget Issues; Mental Health; Digital and Technology Equity; Opposition to the Legalization of Recreational Marijuana.
- Training: Taking Action with NYS PTA Breakout Groups: Youth Advocates; First-time NYS PTA Lobby Day Advocates; Experienced NYS PTA Lobby day Advocates.

Attendees report it was a great training day.

Western Suffolk BOCES and the **Eastern Suffolk BOCES Showcases and Dinners** were not held this year to ensure the safety of our members due to COVID-19 pandemic. We were again disappointed that we were not able to enjoy the delicious dinner prepared by the culinary students nor hear about the amazing programs offered. But again, despite these unprecedented circumstances, Suffolk PTA is proud to congratulate Vincent Vozza from West Babylon Senior High School and Meghan Sullo from West Babylon Senior High School of **Western Suffolk BOCES** and Claudia Koutsantanou from Earl L. Vandermeulen High School and Annabel Latortue from Brentwood High School of **Eastern Suffolk BOCES** as recipients of the PTA Scholarships.

Reflections Showcase & Ceremony: The theme for the 2021/2021 year was “*I Matter Because...*”. This year submissions were done virtually and amazingly, despite the pandemic, there were numerous entries. Suffolk Region was fortunate to have 122 entries move onto the NYS level resulting in:

23 Reflections Awards of Merit recipients: Dance Choreography: Sydney Zwaik - Sylvan Avenue Elementary PTA; Cole Aspetti - Bayview Elementary PTA; Isabella Franco-Maciel - Cherokee Street School PTA; Anna Saitzyk - Half Hollow Hills HS East. Film Production: Division: Celesta Chuntun - Thomas J Lahey PTA; Sarina Policastro - Paul J Gelinas PTSA. Literature: Zachary Lemen - Tamarac Elementary; Lily Brown - Elwood Middle School; Orlin Matute Ulloa - Smithtown High School West PTA. Music Composition: Sayuri Ishida - Setauket School PTA; Brynn Burke - Oakdale-Bohemia Junior High PTA; Carsen Rittenberger - Oldfield Middle School PTA; Airlea Deutscher - Bayport-Bluepoint High School PTSA. Photography: Cayden Mackey-Elliott - Oakwood Primary Center; James Newsom - Manetuck Elementary; Tess Carey - Thomas J Lahey PTA; Samara Kolodny - Commack Council; Valeria LaCamera - Setauket School; Brooke Striga - Silas Wood/Stimson PTA; Rachel Goldstein - Half Hollow Hills High School East. Visual Arts: Autumn Cullinan - North Babyon HS PTSA; Maximus Marone - Sachem Septa; Kayla O'Connor - Sachem Septa.

12 Award of Excellence recipients: Dance Choreography: Charlotte Ozner - Bayview Elementary; Madelyn Guiliano - Nokomis Elementary; Alina Mirman - Commack Council. Film Production: Quinlan Brennan - Ocean Avenue PTA. Literature: Sierra Abano - Northport Middle School PTA; Uchechi Chukwuemeka - North Babylon High School PTSA; Thomas Giacalone - Setauket School. Music Composition: Sally Ferruzzi - James H Boyd Intermediate; Christopher Addeo - Elwood Secondary-John H Glenn HS. Photography: Brooke Broder - Half



Hollow Hills High School East PTA; Mylo Trinagel – Commack Council. Visual Arts: Chase Nolan – Parliament Place Elementary.

Out of those who moved from the NYS level to National level of judging, Suffolk Region is honored to announce **3 National Awards of Excellence**. Those recipients are: for Dance Choreography: Charlotte Ozner – Bayview Elementary; Alina Mirman – Commack Council and for Film Production: Quinlan Brennan – Ocean Avenue PTA.

Congratulations to everyone.

For a full list of recipients: <https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/programs/reflections/reflections-2020-2021/reflections-winners-list-20-21.pdf>

Mara Jean Wilson was the Reflections chair. Unfortunately, the showcase and ceremony were not held this year to ensure the safety of our members due to the COVID-19 pandemic but a beautiful slideshow to celebrate our amazing students was created by Dina Phillips. The students and their families were invited by Suffolk Region to watch it together via Zoom on Friday April 9, 2021. The award recipients will have their certificates mailed to them.

NYS PTA Membership Awards 2020/2021:

➤ **September 2020/2021 – Early Bird Award Badge and Drawing**

Suffolk Region did not have any drawing winners, but 23 units earned this award badge:

05-080 Manetuck Elementary PTA*; 05-083 Udall Road Middle School PTA*; 05-084 West Islip High School PTSA*; 05-087 Beach Street MS PTA; 05-088 Bayview PTA*; 05-089 Oquenock Elementary School PTA*; 05-092 Sunquam Elementary School PTA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA*; 05-100 Harborfields High School PTSA; 05-124 Walt Whitman HS PTA*; 05-144 Elwood Secondary PTSA*; 05-155 John F. Kennedy Elementary School PTA*; 05-180 Dogwood Elem School PTA; 05-232 Thomas J. Lahey PTA*; 05-268 Clinton Avenue PTA*; 05-337 Cayuga Elementary School PTA; 05-340 West Hollow MS PTA*; 05-438 Edward J. Bosti PTA*; 05-458 Longwood Middle School PTA; 05-469 Huntington High School PTSA; 05-536 Washington Drive Primary School PTA; 05-539 Shoreham-Wading River SEPTA*; 05-564 Pat Med SEPTA.

*Special recognition to PTAs who earned this award by September 30th.

➤ **October & November 2020/2021 – Region Contest Winner...Congratulations Westchester-East Putnam Region.**

➤ **October 2020/2021 – Terrific Teacher/Super Staff Award Badge**

Suffolk Region had 8 units who earned this award badge:

05-045 Santapogue School PTA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA; 05-188 Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA; 05-220 Newfield High School PTSA; 05-237 Coram PTA; 05-336 Merrimac School PTA; 05-362 Sachem SEPTA; 05-567 Deauville Gardens West PTA.

➤ **November 2020/2021 – Students Rock Award Badge**

Suffolk Region had 17 units earning this award badge:



05-040 Lindenhurst Senior HS PTSA; 05-048 West Babylon High School PTSA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA; 05-195 Dawnwood Middle School PTA; 05-209 Islip HS PTSA; 05-220 Newfield High School PTSA; 05-221 Ruth C. Kinney Elementary School PTA; 05-348 Longwood Junior HS PTSA; 05-354 Hauppauge High School PTSA; 05-385 East Islip HS PTSA; 05-442 Smithtown High School West PTSA; 05-473 Sachem High School North PTA; 05-502 Pierson High School PTSA; 05-503 Patchogue-Medford HS PTSA; 05-513 Bayport-Bluepoint High School PTSA; 05-526 Hampton Bays Secondary School PTSA; 05-550 Port Jefferson MS/HS PTSA.

➤ **January 2020/2021 – Savvy Membership Award Badge and Drawing**

There was one drawing winner from Suffolk Region, and there were 14 units earning this award badge:

05-088 Bayview PTA; **05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA - Region Winner**; 05-124 Walt Whitman HS PTA; 05-144 Elwood Secondary PTSA; 05-180 Dogwood Elem School PTA; 05-483 Mattituck Cutchogue PTA; 05-543 Three Village Special Education PTA; 05-549 Fire Island PTA; 05-564 Pat Med SEPTA.

➤ **February 2020/2021 – Founders Day Award Badge**

Suffolk Region had 30 units earning this award badge:

05-048 West Babylon High School PTSA; 05-071 Woods Road PTA; 05-080 Manetuck Elementary PTA; 05-084 West Islip High School PTSA; 05-087 Beach Street MS PTA; 05-088 Bayview PTA; 05-089 Oquenock Elementary School PTA; 05-100 Harborfields High School PTSA; 05-119 Oakwood Primary Center PTA; 05-188 Mt. Pleasant Elementary PTA; 05-194 Bicycle Path School PTA; 05-195 Dawnwood Middle School PTA; 05-220 Newfield High School PTSA; 05-242 Stagecoach Elementary School PTA; 05-243 Bay Elementary PTA; 05-329 Bretton Woods Elementary School PTA; 05-334 Hauppauge Middle School PTA; 05-356 James E. Allen SEPTA; 05-359 Lindenhurst SEPTA; 05-378 Hauppauge SEPTA; 05-417 Oakdale-Bohemia Middle School PTA; 05-442 Smithtown High School West PTSA; 05-473 Sachem High School North PTA; 05-496 Copiague Senior High School PTSA; 05-503 Patchogue-Medford HS PTSA; 05-527 Ward Melville HS PTSA; 05-545 Sachem High School East PTA; 05-547 Smithtown High School East PTSA; 05-563 Half Hollow Hills SEPTA; 05-566 West Babylon SEPTA.

➤ **March 2020/2021 – Male Engagement Award Badge and Drawing**

Suffolk Region did not win the drawing, but had 10 units earning this award badge:

05-037 West Gates Avenue Elementary PTA; 05-083 Udall Road Middle School PTA; 05-084 West Islip High School PTSA; 05-088 Bayview PTA; 05-094 Half Hollow Hills HS East PTA; 05-119 Oakwood Primary Center PTA; 05-188 Mt. Pleasant Elementary School PTA; 05-417 Oakdale Bohemia Middle School PTA; 05-442 Smithtown High School West PTSA; 5-567 Deauville Gardens West PTA.

The **PTA Store** continues to offer a vast variety of PTA pins and other PTA items for sale. Please reach out to PTAstore@suffolkpta.org if units need to order any PTA pins or other PTA related items.

Meet the Candidate nights were held virtually this year by several districts with Suffolk Region moderating. It is reported they were successful and informative.

Respectfully submitted by Vicki Algieri, Associate Director of Programs, Suffolk Region PTA

