

E-Leader

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2011



Legislation Brunch
Saturday, March 26
Hofstra
University Club
Hempstead, NY



**NYS PTA Legislative/
Education Conference**
Desmond Hotel
Albany, NY
March 19-20



**Arts-in-Education
Showcase**
April 4, 9am—2pm
**Cradle of Aviation
Museum**
Garden City, NY

Region Director's Message

Dear Presidents,

Anyone who has been following the news can't avoid the recent media blitz focusing on budget cuts and their impact on our daily lives. It seems like every state in the union is promising drastic reductions in services, but no tax increases. The follow-up line to that proposal is.... "Do more with less!" Yet, we hear of teacher layoffs and reduction in school funding. In short, the recent budget cuts will probably result in "a tax" on our schools. Who will ultimately suffer? Our children!!!

As parents, we want our children to be given every opportunity to reach their greatest potential. This cannot happen given the current educational climate. So how do we afford our children a quality education and keep the lid on taxes? Ironically, some educators and economists actually believe that property tax caps could in fact empower parents and increase school district accountability; thereby maximizing buying power.

Let us not be disillusioned. The idea of property tax caps is not new and has its faults. The possible disparity of funding will most definitely exist between "the haves" and "the have-nots". It does, however, raise awareness that parent involvement and accountability on all levels, (parents, teachers, administrators), is crucial if our children are to succeed in future endeavors.

Please find the time to attend our Legislation Brunch on Saturday, March 26 to obtain the most current news from Albany. Come prepared with your questions so you can bring the information back to your districts. Read all the literature contained in the Legislative mailing from NYS PTA; ask your membership to take an active stance and participate in NYS PTA Virtual Lobby Day on March 22 as we ask Albany not to balance its budget by sacrificing education in our great state.

With budget votes just around the corner, parents are urged to attend budget hearings and ask the hard questions. Please take a proactive role in the process for your child and for you community!

Sincerely,

Judy Van Haaren

Judy Van Haaren, Region Director

**Don't miss the deadline! Remain
a unit in good standing!**

**Checks (with 2 signatures) must be
received by March 31 at:**

**NYS PTA
One Wembley Court
Albany, NY 12205**

**Membership Dues
Deadline - March 31!**

Happy Anniversary!

The following units and councils are celebrating their charter date anniversaries:

FEBRUARY

10-078	Fulton Avenue School #8 PTA	2/8/1955
10-100	John W. Dodd Middle School PTA	2/16/1959
10-102	Freeport High School PTSA	2/16/1959
10-107	Floyd B. Watson PTA	2/5/1948
10-140	Chatterton School PTA	2/1/1930
10-141	Merrick Ave Middle School PTA	2/2/1955
10-191	Abbey Lane PTA	2/3/1950
10-299	Elmont Memorial HS PTSA	2/6/1956
10-463	Uniondale SEPTA	2/27/1975
10-544	Children's Readiness Center PTA	2/15/2000

MARCH

10-409	Cantiague PTA	3/13/1963
10-555	Unified Early Childhood Program PTA	3/23/2005
10-471	Powell's Lane PTA	3/3/1977
10-473	Westbury Middle School PTSA	3/3/1977
10-451	Levittown SEPTA	3/27/1972
10-511	Nassau BOCES Middle School PTSA	3/18/1987
10-351	Center Street Elementary School PTA	3/31/1958
10-335	New Hyde Park Memorial HS PTSA	3/20/1957
10-465	Oceanside SEPTA	3/30/1976
10-390	Roslyn Heights School PTA	3/29/1960
10-513	Oyster Bay-East Norwich SEPTA	3/8/1988
10-099	Lenox PTA	3/10/1964
10-171	Burns Avenue PTA	3/19/1953
10-186	J. Fred Sparke PTA	3/24/1958
10-474	Drexel Avenue PTA	3/3/1977
10-253	Lynbrook South Middle School PTA	3/22/1961
10-472	Westbury HS PTSA	3/3/1977
10-177	Old Country Road School PTA	3/17/1953
10-243	Walnut Street School PTA	3/31/1950

Candidates' Forum

Is your PTA planning on conducting a Candidates' Forum this year?

Check out the guidelines in the NYS PTA Resource Guide (Section 8, pages 11-14)

Did you know that you can request a moderator and/or timekeeper from Nassau Region PTA?

Three weeks written notice is required for requests. Please note that Nassau Region will only consider requests for contested elections. However, if a PTA board member is a candidate, it is advisable to contact another group such as the League of Women Voters or the American Association of University Women. Please contact Sheila Shell, Nassau Region PTA School and Community Chair at 516-568-2763 or schoolandcommunity@nassaupta.org

516-568-2763 or schoolandcommunity@nassaupta.org

Vote on
School and
Library
Budgets and
Board of
Education
Candidates
on
May 17



PTA Guide to School Board Elections and Budget Votes

PTA is a not-for-profit corporation with a tax exemption under IRS rules, which states that such organizations **may not make written or oral statements for or against candidates for public office.** However, PTAs can perform a vital service by arranging and conducting candidates' forums to assist the community in making an informed judgment in the election of its board of education.

It is important for the PTA to have input as early as possible in the budget process. It is critical that the PTA take the time to become well informed and work constructively with the school board and superintendent to ensure that their opinions are known. It is the PTA's responsibility to promote an understanding of the education needs of the community and to demonstrate how the proposed budget meets

those needs. **The proposed budget need not contain all of PTA's priorities for it to be supported. A statement of PTA's concerns can inform the board of education of those aspects of the budget with which it does not concur.** For complete information on dos and don'ts, please refer to your **NYS PTA Resource Guide**, which can be downloaded from the members only section of the NYS PTA website, www.nyspta.org.

Presidents' Reminders

Wow, I cannot believe that it is already time to start preparing for next year. If this is your last year as president, it is time to begin getting things in order to pass along to the newly elected president. If you will be serving a second term, it is time to begin thinking about how you will be welcoming the new members to your executive committee and to thank those who have completed their terms.

All units and councils should have

begun their nominations and elections process for next year. Please remember to refer to your bylaws and procedures for the information needed to complete this task. If you have any questions please contact your Assistant Director (AD). All Nassau Region contact information is available through our website at

www.nassaupta.org.

Congratulations to those of you who are completing your term – we are very proud of you! Remember to encourage those who will be following behind you and always be



“Thank you for volunteering!”

a consistent supporter of PTA. Do not forget to pass along all materials, as they are the property of the PTA.

Looking forward to seeing you at our Spring Conference on May 11!

Here are some important items to help you close out the year:

- ◆ Please make sure to plan a meeting to discuss and review your district's proposed school budget. If your district will be having a contested election, please make plans to host a Candidates' Forum so that community members will have the opportunity to meet and greet the candidates who are running for your Board of Education.
- ◆ Celebrate the Reflections winners from your unit. If you have a student who was a finalist for Nassau Region, please respond to the invitation that was sent to you to attend the Reflections Reception being held at Brookside School in Merrick on April 14.
- ◆ Our Annual Spring Conference includes dinner, our annual business meeting and our Ways & Means Expo all together in one venue. This year it will be held on Wednesday, May 11 at the Melville Marriott. Watch your mail for the registration form and more details.
- ◆ One of the most important things that the current president must do is to complete the NYS PTA Form A, Officers' Contact Information with the new officers' contact information. Please go to the NYSPTA website (www.nyspta.org) and do so as soon as you have elected your new slate.
- ◆ National, state and region mailing databases are generated from this information and we want to keep your unit informed about all PTA news.
- ◆ Please mark your calendars for June 21 and join us at our Officers' Roundtable, which will be hosted by the Hicksville School District this year. It is important to continue your training and remind all of the newly elected and returning officers that attending training is part of their responsibility as stated in your bylaws. Workshops will be available for Presidents, Council Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries.
- ◆ Join PTA members from across the state as we celebrate Making a Difference Together at New York State PTA's Summer Leadership Conference being held in Utica, NY from July 29 – July 31. Nassau Region will offer coach bus service for members who are interested in traveling to Utica; reservations will be on a first come first serve basis.
- ◆ Check the NYS PTA website for updates regarding Convention 2011 in Niagara Falls. More specific details and reservation information will be available very soon!

PTA Connect for Respect

An Initiative to Prevent Bullying

National PTA has launched "Connect for Respect," an initiative to prevent bullying in schools and communities across the

country. Parents and PTA® leaders play a critical role in ensuring that children grow up in safe environments free from bullying. Tip sheets are available that

show how parents can help prevent bullying.

Download the Tip Sheets at: <http://www.pta.org/4515.htm>



© National PTA

For more Information, visit : PTA.org/bullying.

Here are
8 Ways to
Celebrate
Your Favorite
Teacher ...

National Teacher Appreciation Week

Jane Chan, Nassau Region PTA Education Chair

In 1984, the National Parent Teacher Association established the first full week in May as National Teacher Appreciation Week. It is a special time for teachers to discover why their teaching is appreciated and valued, to reaffirm the commitment to parent-teacher partnerships and

to celebrate the outstanding contributions teachers make. The feeling of appreciation will help to build pride and to motivate teachers and parents alike during these difficult economic times.

Here are 8 ideas to help you celebrate your favorite teacher:

1. Write a letter or poem

2. Write a favorite memory
3. Create artwork
4. Create a scrapbook or album
5. Create a video or CD
6. Volunteer and help out at the school
7. Perform a random act of kindness
8. Purchase a book for the school library

Parents' Guide to Student Success

National PTA Presents Parents' Guide to Student Success to Help Parents Understand the New Common Core State Standards

National PTA® recently released the Parents' Guide to Student Success. The Guide provides information on the Common Core

State Standards in mathematics and English language arts that have been adopted by more than 40 states and how the standards can be used to improve children's educational

achievements. The Guide illustrates how parents play a key role in this effort. For more information or to download the guides in English or Spanish, go to: <http://pta.org/4446.htm>



Did you Know? ...

National PTA offers materials in both English and Spanish on their website at www.pta.org

Jill Bonacasa, Nassau Region PTA Legislation Chair

The NYS PTA Legislation Education Conference is this Saturday and Sunday, March 19 and 20 at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. Although registration is officially closed, individuals may still register on-site as day attendees. If you want to stay overnight, contact the NYS PTA office immediately, as there is no guarantee of rooms beyond the registration date.

NYS PTA "Virtual Lobby Day" is on Tuesday, March 22, 2011. For more information, please visit: <http://www.nyspta.org/advocacy/lobbyday.cfm>

The Nassau Region PTA Legislation Committee has been busy planning our annual Nassau Region PTA Legislation Brunch. This year's brunch will be held at The University

Club at Hofstra University from 9 am -12 noon on Saturday, March 26. Our guest speaker this year is Regent Roger Tilles. Regent Tilles was elected in April of 2010 to his second 5-year term on the New York State Education Department as a member of the Board of Regents. Please visit the Nassau Region website: www.nassaupta.org for more information. Our theme this year is "Hooked on Advocacy" - we hope to see you there!

The Legislation Committee has updated the 2011 Nassau Region PTA Legislative Priorities. Updated copies will be available at the Legislation Brunch.

Thank you for your advocacy!



LEGISLATION/EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 19 – Sunday, March 20, 2011

Desmond Hotel
660 Albany-Shaker Road
Albany, NY



Engaging Families, Maximizing Opportunity

Nassau Region PTA Legislation Brunch

March 26, 2011

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Hofstra University Club

David S. Mack Hall

225 Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11549

For program information, contact Jill Bonacasa: 516-536-5324, legislation@nassaupta.org

For registration information, contact Connie Fisher: 516-694-0377, registration@nassaupta.org

PARLIAMENTARIANS OF GREATER NEW YORK: PARLIAMENTARY EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Saturday, April 2, 2011

9:00 am to 12:30 pm

Syosset High School Little Theatre
70 Southwoods Road, Syosset, NY 11791

Registration \$20 per person; \$15 per student with ID includes Continental Breakfast – 9 to 9:30 am

Registration Chairman: Fran Kulik, 516-285-0551, franaip@yahoo.com

Conference Chairman: Joan Corbisiero, PRP, 718-224-9757; joanhc@aol.com

For more information on these two local events, or to download registration forms, visit our website at: www.nassaupta.org.



Integrated co-teaching services means the provision of specially designed instruction and academic instruction provided to a group of students with disabilities and non-disabled students.
- NYSED.gov

Special Education

Jill Criscitelli, Nassau Region PTA Special Education Chair

In January 2011, the New York State Education Department released a memorandum regarding **Variance Procedures to Temporarily Exceed the Maximum Number of Students with Disabilities in an Integrated Co-teaching Services Class.** The purpose of the memorandum was to provide the procedures that a school district would need to follow in order to

obtain a variance to temporarily exceed twelve students with disabilities in a class where integrated co-teaching services are provided. The total of twelve students includes any student with a disability in that class, regardless of whether all of the students are recommended for integrated co-teaching services. The state lists an example of this as; if two students with disabilities in a class are recommended

for resource room and related services and ten are recommended for integrated co-teaching services, there are twelve students with disabilities in that particular classroom. Additional information, including the memorandum in its entirety may be found at <http://www.p.12.nysed.gov/specialed/publications/policy/schoolagecontinuum.html>

Membership

Kathy Paulis, Nassau Region PTA Membership Chair

Recently the state office sent to all units their membership card notice, year end membership summary and awards information sheet. **Be sure to follow the mailing instructions carefully and adhere to all deadlines.**

Send all payments together with a Membership Dues Payment slip to the NYS PTA office at One Wembley Court, Albany, NY 12205. All checks require two signatures and the 10-___ unit code number. Please do

not send your unused or voided cards to the state office. These cards along with your Membership Awards application should be sent to me. If you have already returned the cards, I still need the awards application if you wish to apply for any awards. All materials must be received no later than March 31. **Any payments made after March 31 will not be counted toward membership awards.** If you need additional cards after March 31, I will have them available. Any payments made after March 31, will not be

included in your total membership for 2010-2011.

Only units in good standing with all membership payments received in the state office and all unused and voided cards returned to me by March 31 will receive awards. It is best to try to take care of this by March 15. If you have any questions, please call me at (516) 756-0616, or email me at Kathyp1009@yahoo.com.

Thank you for all that you continue to do for the students.

REMEMBER:

- All payments to the NYS PTA Office in Albany
- All unused cards and awards applications to Kathy Paulis in Massapequa



...Add Your Voice!

Nassau Region Spring Conference/Ways & Means Expo

Jeanette Meoli, Nassau Region PTA Leader Editor



The snow is finally gone, and we are enjoying a taste of spring which can only mean

one thing - we are busy preparing for the Spring Conference and Ways and Means Expo. This year's event will be held on May 11 at the Melville Marriott.

Come meet our friendly vendors and sample their wares - every PTA should be able to find great ideas for future fundraisers. The Expo begins at 5 PM with the annual Nassau Region Spring Meeting and dinner to

follow. Come enjoy a fun evening, celebrate Nassau Region's award winners and see what new ideas are available for you to bring back to your unit for next year. Keep watching your mail for the registration form, and find the latest information on our website at www.nassaupta.org. Look forward to seeing you there!

Boutique is Open!



While you're at Spring Conference, come visit the Nassau Region PTA Boutique! We'll be there on May 11 and also at Officers' Roundtable on June 21. We are proud to offer a wide selection of pins and other PTA merchandise. Get your installation pins, volunteer thank you gifts and PTA supplies to start your new year. Don't forget that Pins by Mail is available year round. Order forms are available on the Nassau Region PTA website.

Did you know that you can bring your children to the Arts-in-Ed showcase?

They'll have lots of fun interacting with all the performers!



SAVE THE DATE
Nassau Region PTA
Arts-in-Education Showcase
 • Monday, April 4, 2011
 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

at a new location

The CRADLE of AVIATION MUSEUM
 One Davis Avenue
 Garden City, NY 11530

Email: artsined@nassaupta.org
www.nassaupta.org



**OVER 100 VENDORS WILL BE ON HAND
 PREVIEW SHOWCASES AND MEET ARTIST FOR
 HIRE TO BRING TO YOUR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
 PROGRAMS - ALL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND
 PROGRAM COORDINATORS SHOULD ATTEND**



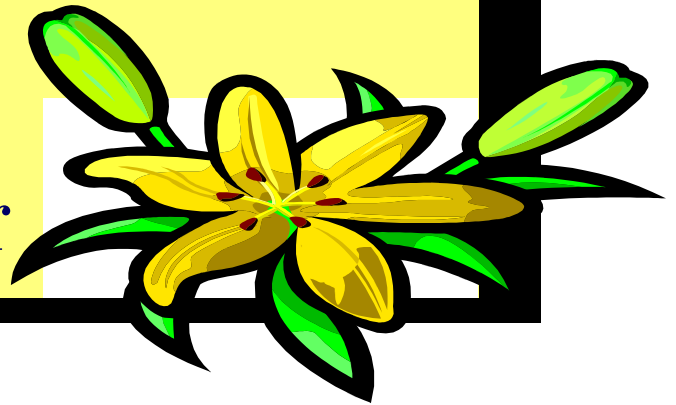
Nassau Region
PTA
everychild.one voice.®

Nassau Region PTA services over 300 units and 37 councils and is committed to uniting the home, school and community in promoting the education, health, and welfare of children, youth and families.

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Elmont, NY 11003-1805
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Jeanette Meoli
98 Atkinson Road
Rockville Centre, New York 11570
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Nassau Region Calendar



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|--------------------|---|
| March 19-20 | NYS PTA Legislation/Education Conference—Desmond Hotel—Albany, NY |
| March 26 | Legislation Brunch—Hofstra University Club—Hempstead, NY |
| April 4 | Arts-in-Education Showcase—Cradle of Aviation Museum—Garden City, NY |
| April 14 | Reflections Reception—Brookside School—North Merrick, NY |
| May 11 | Spring Conference/Ways & Means Expo—Melville Marriott—Melville, NY |
| May 17 | Annual School Budget Vote and Board of Education Elections |
| June 21 | Officers' Roundtable |