

Newsletter



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS
FALL CONFERENCE

MEET OUR TEAM
NYS PTA CON 2025



MONTAUK LIGHTHOUSE
PHOTO CREDIT: NORTHFORKLIGHT

IN THIS ISSUE



PHOTO CREDIT: SDI PRODUCTIONS FROM GETTY IMAGES VIA CANVA.COM

02

MESSAGE FROM OUR REGION DIRECTOR

Welcome message from our Region Director, Wendy Natalone.

05

REGION EVENTS CALENDAR

View this year's events calendar at-a-glance.

06

ARTS-IN-ED

Learn about this wonderful program and this year's vendor showcase.

07

AWARDS

Check out upcoming awards and submission deadlines.

09

FALL CONFERENCE

Learn about this year's workshop offerings and registration deadlines.

10

NYS PTA 129TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

This year's convention theme is "Measuring Up for Every Child".

11

BYLAWS

An important reminder to all PTA Units.

12

MEMBERSHIP

Why join the PTA?

13

CHAIR REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

What's a chair report and why they're important?

16

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

Calling all student artists! This year's theme is "I Belong!".

17

HISTORIAN'S PAGE

- Officers Training
- Suffolk-by-the-Sea
- Board of Managers Training

18

PTA HAPPENINGS

Highlighting the amazing programs and events being held by PTA's in Suffolk Region.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUFFOLK REGION DIRECTOR



As the weather turns and the long days of summer shorten, we want to extend a warm welcome and thank you to all the new and returning PTA leaders and members of Suffolk Region. Suffolk Region PTA hopes that all members and their families have had a wonderful start to the school year! Suffolk Region PTA is excited to support our members, units and councils in another fantastic year of advocacy, growth, learning, and success for all children.

The PTA's mission is to always be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child. Your involvement as PTA members makes a real difference and we thank you for that.

We are excited to bring our members this first edition of our new quarterly newsletters this year! These newsletters will include important information to assist our PTA units and councils as well as celebrate the successes of the children and our members!

For all PTA unit and council leaders, please be sure to check out the new for 2025 **"31-Point Checklist"** to ensure that your year is off to a great start and that everything is up-to-date with your PTA.

Suffolk Region PTA continues to offer many training opportunities for all members throughout the year. Our annual **Fall Conference** workshop event is coming up on October 23rd. We also are excited to once again host our annual **Partners in PTA** (formally known as Presidents' and Principals') Dinner on January 14, 2026 as well as our annual Spring Conference and Vendor Showcase on April 28, 2026, both at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. These events offer an opportunity to socialize and network with your building administration as well as other PTA members in Suffolk. The highly acclaimed Vendor Showcase offers PTA members the opportunity to visit with exhibitors and learn of new programs, Arts-In-Education options and fundraising ideas to bring into your schools and PTAs.

Please continue to **visit our website** for up-to-date information on the above events as well as information on **Awards and Recognitions, Reflections and PARP**, plus other valuable information. Be sure to visit our **Monthly Chair Reports page** on our website to view the amazing reports of our chair people, who work so hard to stay on top of all current issues affecting children and families. Please also **follow us on Facebook**.

We hope you enjoy reading our first edition of our 2025-2026 newsletters! Please be on the lookout for future editions of our newsletter! We are looking forward to continuing to partner with you to make this school year a success for every child!

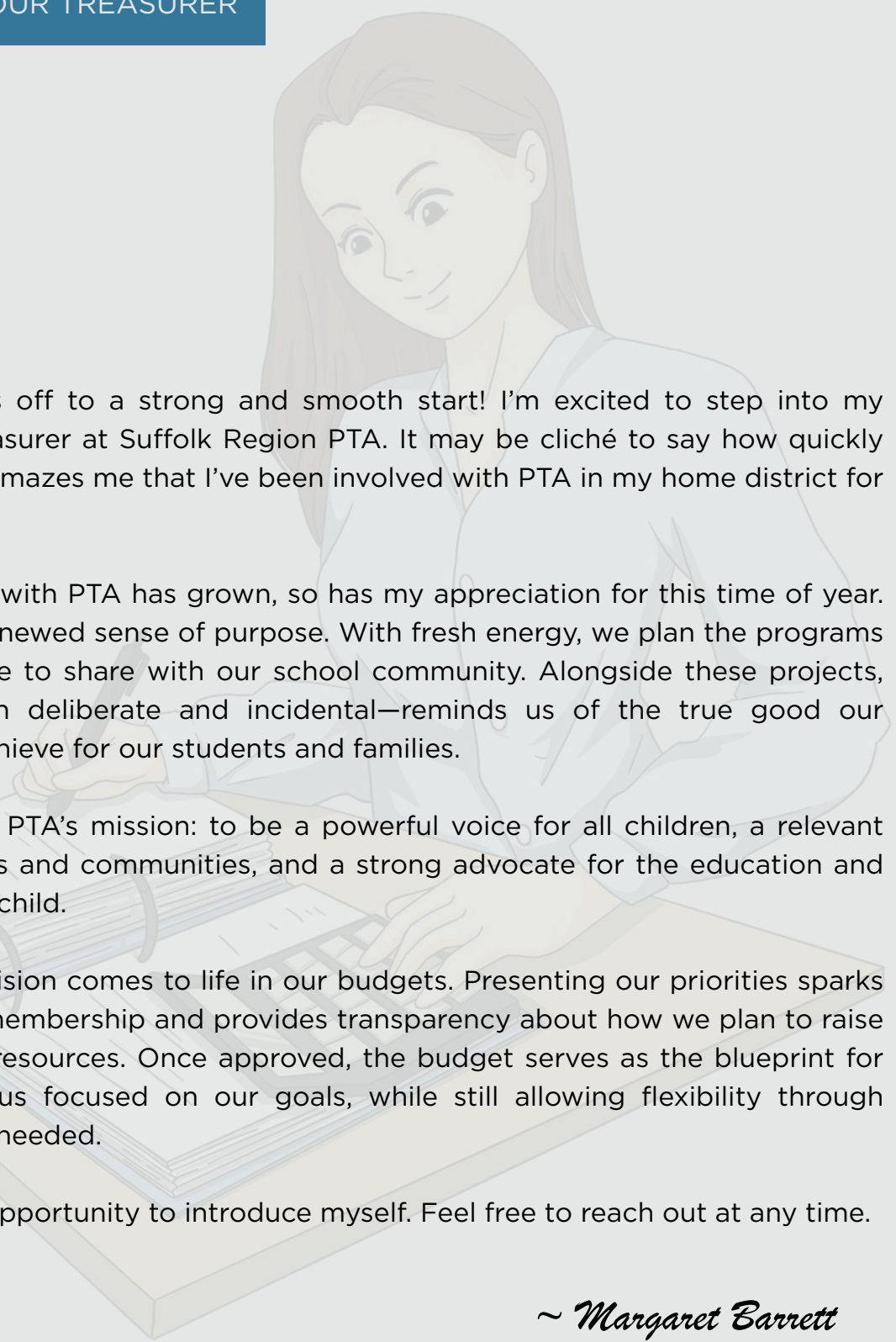
Wendy Natale

suffolkrd@suffolkpta.org

**31 POINT
PTA UNIT
CHECKLIST** ✓
Click to view

CORRESPONDENCE

A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER



I hope your year is off to a strong and smooth start! I'm excited to step into my second year as Treasurer at Suffolk Region PTA. It may be cliché to say how quickly time passes, but it amazes me that I've been involved with PTA in my home district for nearly 25 years.

As my involvement with PTA has grown, so has my appreciation for this time of year. Each fall brings a renewed sense of purpose. With fresh energy, we plan the programs and events we'd like to share with our school community. Alongside these projects, our advocacy—both deliberate and incidental—reminds us of the true good our organization can achieve for our students and families.

This is the heart of PTA's mission: to be a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.

For our units, this vision comes to life in our budgets. Presenting our priorities sparks enthusiasm in our membership and provides transparency about how we plan to raise funds and use our resources. Once approved, the budget serves as the blueprint for the year. It keeps us focused on our goals, while still allowing flexibility through amendments when needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself. Feel free to reach out at any time.

~ *Margaret Barnett*

srtreasurer@suffolkpta.org



Executive Committee

Region Director	Wendy Natalone
Associate Director	Laurie Hernandez-Mallimo
Associate Director	Vicki Algieri
Associate Director	Melinda Monahan
Associate Director	Gerard Bringmann
Associate Director	Sheree Sibilly
Corresponding Secretary	Gerri Coleman-Odom
Recording Secretary	Chrissy Centrone
Treasurer	Margaret Barrett
Immediate Past RD	Lori Fontana

Assistant Directors

← Click to find your AD

Assistant Director Section 1	Michelle Abola
Assistant Director Section 2	Maria Sanders
Assistant Director Section 3	Chris Maresco
Assistant Director Section 4	Camille Newsom
Assistant Director Section 5	Laurie Hernandez-Mallimo

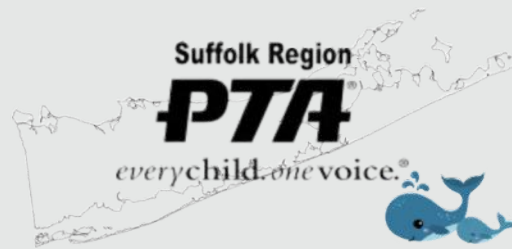
Executive Assignees

Anti-Bias Task Force	Debbie Grayer
ESBOCES Library Board	Jackie Wilson
LIEC Liaison	Cathy Romano
Media Technologist	Annie Faivus
NSSBA	Lana Ajemian
Parliamentarian	Susan Lipman
Registrar	Karen Steigert

Chairpersons

Awards	Rebeca Giannino
Bylaws	Peggy McKay
DEI/LGBTQ+	Candice Blake-Davis
Education	Denise Caperna
Family Engagement	Danielle Shingler
Health & Wellness/Environment	Tomas Vazquez
Historian	Sherry McKittrick
Legislative Advocacy	Carla Simpson
Male Engagement	OPEN → Join our team! (click to apply)
Membership	Susan Bosinius
Mental Health	Linda DeAngelis
PARP/Literacy	Victoria Boecherer
PTA Store	Andrea Curran
Reflections	Jenn Leary
Special Education	Lisa Rafferty
Youth Member	Marcelus Bradford

Questions? Visit the **Contact Us** section on **Suffolk Region's website**.



Events Calendar

Subject to change.

2025-2026

www.suffolkpta.org

JUL 12	SUFFOLK-BY-THE-SEA Sequoia High School Holtsville, NY	JAN 14	PARTNERS IN PTA DINNER (fka Presidents & Principals Dinner) Villa Lombardi's Holbrook, NY
JUL 19-20	NYS PTA SUMMER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE Albany, NY	FEB 7	LONGWOOD LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST (Tentative Date)
AUG 14	BOARD OF MANAGERS TRAINING Sequoia High School Holtsville, NY	FEB 4-5	WINTER WORKSHOPS Virtual
SEP 17-18	FALL OFFICERS' TRAINING Virtual	MAR 26	REFLECTIONS SHOWCASE Sequoia High School Holtsville, NY
OCT 23	FALL CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS Sequoia High School Holtsville, NY	APR 28	SPRING CONFERENCE Villa Lombardi's Holbrook, NY
OCT 29	NYS PTA CONVENTION FLOOR MGMT TRAINING Virtual	JUN 3	OFFICERS' ROUNDTABLE/TRAINING Sequoia High School Holtsville, NY
NOV 14-16	NYS PTA CONVENTION Niagara, NY	JUL 11	SUFFOLK-BY-THE-SEA Sequoia High School Holtsville, NY

A Special Message from the Suffolk Region Director:

Welcome back!! Suffolk Region PTA wishes all PTA units and councils a wonderful 2025-2026 school year! Suffolk Region is one of the 12 regions of NYS PTA; one of the largest regions. As many of the units and councils in Suffolk are busy making plans for the school year, we want to remind all that Suffolk Region PTA is here to provide advisory and supportive services to those units and councils. We are here to help! Please be on the lookout for our upcoming workshops and events!

Warm regards,
Wendy Natalone

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- ☐ Add new officers into Givebacks. _____
- ☐ Complete prior year's audit. _____
- ☐ Renew AIM insurance policy. _____
- ☐ Presidents & Treasurers attend mandatory Financial Accountability training by 10/15. _____
- ☐ 990-EZ Filings due 11/15. _____



IMAGE CREDIT: EASTERN SUFFOLK BOCES - ARTS IN EDUCATION BROCHURE

Arts-in-Education continues to be a vital program for the development of well-rounded students. Research consistently indicates a strong link between Arts-in-Education and higher achievement in other subjects, including math, science, and language arts.

The arts provide a safe outlet for students to explore, process, and communicate their thoughts and feelings, which is crucial for emotional regulation and well-being. Exposure to Arts-in-Education has been shown to build confidence and self-esteem as well as increase inclusivity.

Save the date for our annual, highly acclaimed Vendor Showcase which occurs immediately before our Annual Business Meeting and provides dedicated time for all PTA leaders, guests and volunteers to connect with all of the Arts-in-Education options, programs and fundraising opportunities that our different exhibitors offer. This year's meeting and showcase is scheduled for April 28, 2026 at Villa Lombardi's in Holbrook. It will be a great opportunity for all PTA units to collect information about Arts-in-Education, fundraising ideas and programs and be able to discuss during your planning stages which programs will benefit your students.

→ Arts-in-Ed Information Brochure.

→ Arts-in-Ed Online Catalog

→ Arts-in-Ed FAQ's.

AWARDS ARE A WONDERFUL WAY TO RECOGNIZE PTA VOLUNTEERS.

We've highlighted award applications with due dates approaching soon.

Visit **our website** to view all of this year's award opportunities.

SUFFOLK REGION PTA



IMAGE CREDIT: INSTASTUDIO VIA CANVA.COM

Ted Brigham Teacher of the Year Award

Due date: Nov 15, 2025

Ted Brigham was a teacher for 27 years. During that time, he continually reached beyond his position as a teacher to both students and parents with a commitment to build stronger relations between home and school. His commitment to the welfare of children was further demonstrated by his years of service as an active member of the PTA. Ted had a strong belief that parental involvement was important in helping his students to succeed and his work as a classroom teacher exemplified that every day..

View and download application here.

Danielle Alduino Memorial Scholarship Award

Due date: Nov 30, 2025

The Danielle Alduino Scholarship Award is awarded to a graduating public high school senior who has dedicated themselves to community service. This memorial award is dedicated to the memory of Danielle Alduino, past Suffolk Region PTA District Director, who believed in giving back to the community. She spent many years advocating for children by volunteering in her local PTA, Suffolk Region PTA and the New York State PTA Board of Managers where she served as a Vice President.



IMAGE CREDIT: AWICON FROM AWICON VIA CANVA.COM

View and download application here.



IMAGE CREDIT: OGICHOBANOV FROM GETTY IMAGES VIA CANVA.COM

Peg Davis Leadership Award

Due date: On-going Basis

Established in 1991, the purpose of the Peg Davis Leadership Award is to recognize and acknowledge outstanding leadership in Suffolk Region PTA's. This award is named in honor of the fine leadership of Margaret (Peg) Davis, who served as Suffolk District Director (1983- 1986).

View and download application here.

NYS PTA

Innovative Teacher Grant

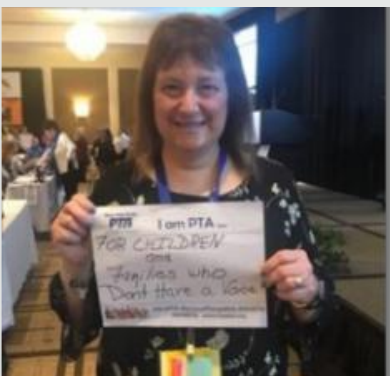
Due date: Oct 31, 2025

NYS PTA's grant gives innovative teachers the opportunity to put their ideas into action. It is awarded to worthy projects that significantly influence student learning. Grants may aim to introduce something new or provide enhancements to a current program; any project should be inclusive, not limited to a subset of students within a class or grade level.

View and download application here.



IMAGE CREDIT: NYS PTA



Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award

Due date: Nov 15, 2025

The Susanne Smoller Commitment to Advocacy Youth Award will be given to one high school senior to encourage them to pursue post-secondary education or training and to continue their active engagement in advocacy in the areas of HIV/AIDS, the LGBTQ+ community, mental health, social justice or substance use.

View and download application here.

PHOTO CREDIT: NYS PTA

Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education

Due date: Dec 15, 2025

The Jenkins Memorial Scholarship was inaugurated in October 1946, as a special Golden Anniversary Project. In 1947 the fund was established as a permanent project as a living memorial to the young people who lost their lives in military service during WWII and was named for one of them, Clifford N. Jenkins, Jr., son of Margaret Jenkins, New York State PTA President 1944-1947 and National PTA President 1961-1964. The purpose of the project is to assist outstanding students in preparing for the teaching profession.

View and download application here.

**Jenkins Memorial
Scholarship for
Teacher Education**

IMAGE CREDIT: NYS PTA

Applications for the following awards and recognitions are accepted on an on-going basis:

Click on award name for further details.

- Advocate in Action Award
- Community Service Award
- Diamond and Golden Oak Awards for Special Recognition
- Distinguished Service Award
- Honorary Life Membership

NATIONAL PTA

Visit **National PTA's website** to learn about grant and award opportunities.

A N N U A L F A L L



C O N F E R E N C E

Fall Conference is a designated Leadership Training Conference.

THU, OCT 23RD

6:00 PM - 8:45 PM

(On-site registration begins: 6:00 pm)

Sequoia High School
750 Waverly Ave
Holtsville, NY 11742

Please share this information with your members, encourage them to attend this leadership-training event. This is an excellent way to build and strengthen your unit or council. Your bylaws require that all officers attend region-training workshops. The key to an effective PTA is a well-trained leader

Register Online

Mail-in Registration

WORKSHOP OFFERINGS

Session I

- **A. Nominations and Elections:** The Nominating Committee is such an important committee that it is never too early to be thinking about it.
- **B. Bylaws:** Learn more about how your PTA's bylaws govern your association and how to update and renew your PTA's bylaws.
- **C. Givebacks Navigation Basics:** All you need to know to access and navigate through Givebacks and how it can benefit your PTA.

Session II

- **Q&A Panel with the Suffolk Region Executive Committee:** Bring all of your questions to learn new things, obtain new ideas and educate yourself on the *Do's and Don'ts of PTA!*

NYS PTA 129TH ANNUAL CONVENTION



**REGISTRATION
DEADLINE
EXTENDED!**

REGISTER BY OCT 13TH

NOV 14TH - NOV 16TH

Niagara Falls
Convention Center
101 Old Falls Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14303

[Convention Info Page](#)

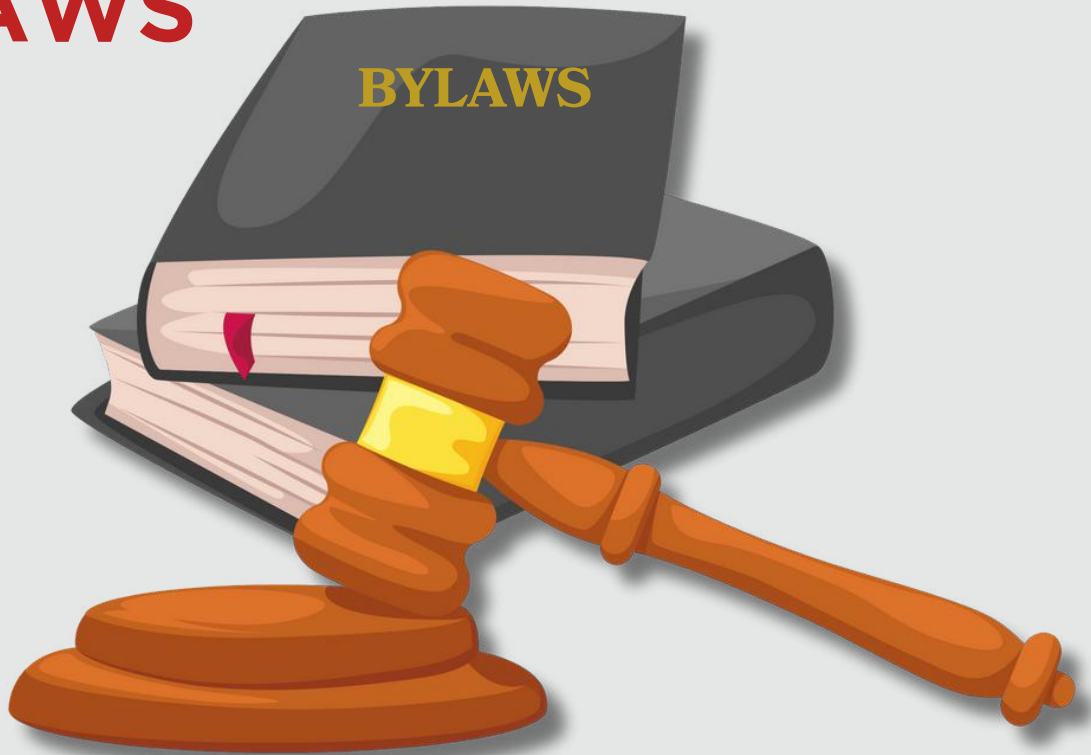
[Registration Packet](#)

IMAGE CREDIT: NYS PTA

Convention provides PTA members the opportunity to:

- Foster relationships and share experiences and best practices with other volunteer-minded delegates.
- Develop new connections and tools to advocate for children and families locally and statewide.
- Elect new NYS PTA officers.
- Vote on bylaws that govern our State Association.
- Adopt new resolutions, and retire, retain, or update existing resolutions that are the framework of our advocacy efforts.
- Hear from dynamic and inspirational keynote speakers.
- Participate in motivating and informative workshops that will give you additional tools and resources for your PTA,
- increase your understanding of complex education issues, broaden your views, build your confidence as a leader, and inspire you to Measure Our Mission for Every Child in your school and community.
- Visit the exhibitor showcase, with great giveaways, and shop at our PTA Store for yourself and for gifts to recognize your volunteers.
- Enjoy an amazing and memorable experience!

BYLAWS

IMAGE CREDIT: DILUCK VIA CANVA.COM

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

Bylaws are the backbone of your association!

All units and councils must have PTA bylaws under which they operate. The bylaws must be updated every three (3) years to keep your unit or council in good standing with the State and National PTA.

Learn more or access the **NYS PTA Bylaws Wizard**.

Questions? Email our Bylaws Chair, Peggy McKay at bylaws@suffolkpta.org.

MEMBERSHIP



IMAGE CREDIT: NYS PTA

→ **Membership Toolkit** for local leaders.

→ **Find and join your local PTA.**

Message from our Membership Chair

Dear Suffolk Region PTA Leaders,

I hope this message finds you well and recharged for an exciting new school year!

My name is Susan Bosinius and I am the Suffolk County Region Membership Chair for the 2025-2026 school year. In this role, my goal is to support you with the tools, training, and guidance you need to successfully retain and grow your membership. Whether you're a seasoned membership officer or stepping into the role for the first time, I'm here to help you every step of the way.

For all PTA leaders, don't miss out on the opportunity to earn any or all of the NYS PTA Membership Awards for your PTA! Learn more and submit your form here

→ **NYS PTA Membership Awards.**

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions you may have.

Warm regards,
Susan Bosinius
membership@suffolkpta.org

Check out these top reasons **Why PTA Makes A Difference!**

- Each local PTA unit is an independent association that collaborates with its schools, planning its programs and activities to meet the needs of the children and youth in its community.
- PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization operated exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Did you know? PTA is nonsectarian, noncommercial and nonpartisan.
- Local PTA members are a part of both the **New York State** and **National PTA**, and can attend conventions, workshops and leadership training opportunities. Structure is important, as each unit, council and region PTA has bylaws, elected officers and committees.
- Experienced PTA leaders who volunteer at the region, state and National PTA levels provide support, encouragement, advice, programs, educational materials, publications, conferences, workshops and leadership training.
- PTA members are advocates for the well-being of children and youth, and unit activities should always maintain this focus.

CHAIR REPORT HIGHLIGHTS...

Chairpeople and committees play an important role in your organization. Their time often goes into coordinating special or on-going events for the PTA. Chairs can also be responsible for research and keeping your unit updated on a specific area of interest or importance such as Education, the Environment, Legislation, Mental Health, and Special Education just to name a few.

These dedicated volunteers keep your members updated through their reports, which are prepared and distributed in accordance with your procedures. Chair reports keep everyone in the loop, can provide knowledge and serve as historical information for the PTA.

In each issue of Suffolk Region's newsletter. We hope to highlight a couple of chair reports from our team to share with you. Not only will it help provide examples of chair reports. It's a great way for all PTA members to learn more about what's going on at Suffolk Region, within our county, state and beyond.

IMAGE CREDIT: IRASUTOYA VIA CANVA.COM

In this issue:

- Eastern Suffolk BOCES
Library Council Chair Report
- Health & Wellness/
Environment report

To read more from our Chairs.
Visit the **Monthly Chair Reports**
section on **Suffolk Region's**
website.

“The Important Role of School Librarians”

an Eastern Suffolk BOCES Library Council report

by Jacqueline Wilson

The Eastern Suffolk BOCES Library Council works to ensure that the School Districts in Eastern Suffolk BOCES have access to resources, programs and trainings for their Librarians. They provide many services to the schools including liaison meetings four times a year with school library representatives, a yearly all-day Long Island Conference for librarians, and in-service training that can be accessed live via zoom for CTLE credit or viewed later for relevant and up to date information.

The districts have access to books, videos, and materials to enhance both their Classroom and Library Programs.

Librarians play an important role in any school building, they are an important resource to faculty and students throughout the school year, yet some districts at times have tried to excess their librarian for cost savings.

Please read the attached short story “The Day the Librarians Disappeared” to learn more about why we MUST KEEP our Librarians available in all of our schools.



PHOTO CREDIT: FATCAMERA FROM GETTY IMAGES VIA CANVA.COM

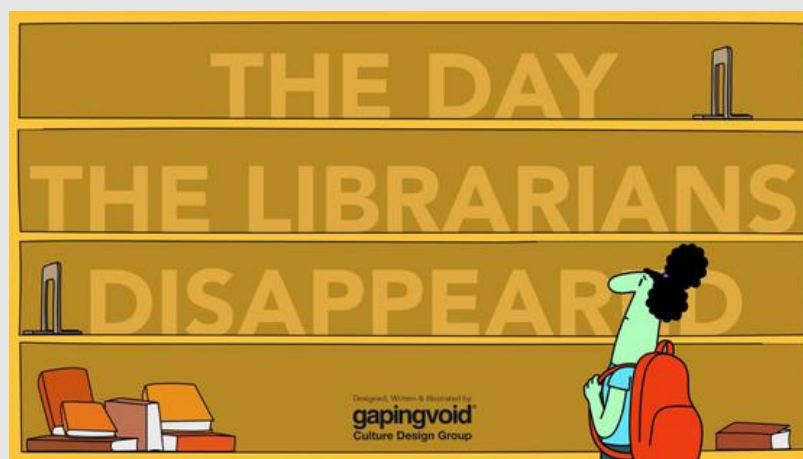


PHOTO CREDIT: COMSTOCK IMAGES FROM PHOTO IMAGES VIA CANVA.COM



PHOTO CREDIT: AZMANJAKA FROM GETTY IMAGES VIA CANVA.COM

→ IMLS The Day the Librarians Disappeared



“Promoting Health & Wellness Through Outdoor Sports & Activities”

a Health & Wellness/Environment report

by Tomas Vazquez

Health and wellness are fundamental components of a child’s development, and incorporating an environmental perspective adds an important layer of awareness and responsibility. Engaging children in sports promotes physical activity, which is essential for building strong bones, muscles, and cardiovascular health. Regular exercise also enhances mental well-being, fostering confidence, teamwork, and discipline. However, the environment in which these activities take place plays a critical role in ensuring safety and sustainability.

Choosing outdoor sports and playgrounds that prioritize green spaces can positively influence children’s connection to nature, boosting their mood and reducing stress. Parks and natural areas not only provide fresh air and sunlight—both vital for vitamin D synthesis—but also serve as eco-friendly venues where children can learn about environmental stewardship firsthand. Conversely, indoor sports facilities may sometimes contribute to air pollution or expose children to synthetic materials, raising health concerns.



IMAGE CREDIT: GIOIMAGES AND MUSTHOFAPROJECT VIA CANVA.COM

Moreover, environmental sustainability should inform the choices of sports equipment and apparel. Using eco-friendly materials, reducing plastic waste, and recycling sports gear can help minimize ecological footprints. Schools and communities can promote these practices, encouraging children to develop eco-conscious habits alongside their physical skills.

In addition, addressing environmental health issues such as air pollution is crucial, especially for children participating in outdoor sports in urban areas. Implementing policies that reduce emissions and improve air quality ensures safer environments for young athletes. Educating children about environmental issues linked to sports, like climate change and pollution, can foster a sense of responsibility toward protecting the planet.

In conclusion, promoting health and wellness in children through sports, while considering environmental impacts, nurtures a holistic approach to well-being. It encourages active lifestyles, environmental stewardship, and sustainable habits, preparing the younger generation to lead healthier lives while caring for the planet.



IMAGE CREDIT: NYS PTA

Calling all student artists!

Explore the Arts and Express Yourself

“This program is for students of all grades and their parents and caregivers.

National PTA has a long-standing commitment to arts education. For over 50 years, Reflections has helped students explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning. The Reflections program provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boosts student confidence and success in the arts and in life.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of students in pre-K through grade 12 create original works of art in response to a student-created theme. In Reflections, students submit artworks in the available arts category areas and program divisions: Primary (Pre-K - Grade 2), Intermediate (Grades 3-5), Middle School (Grades 6-8), High School (Grades 9-12), Accessible Arts (All grades welcome).”

National PTA Reflections page

REGION AND UNIT REFLECTIONS CHAIR WEBINAR

THU, OCT 16TH @ 7 PM

>> [REGISTRATION LINK](#) <<

Reflections Program Steps Timeline:

- Step 1: Getting started (Sep)
- Step 2: Promote your program (Sep/Oct)
- Step 3: Judging (Nov/Dec)
- Step 4: Celebrate! (Nov-Jun)
- Step 5: Advance entries to your Region (Region Deadlines) (Nov/Dec)

Visit **NYS PTA's Reflections Program** page for detailed information on each of these steps.



IMAGE CREDIT: NYS PTA

The 2027-28 Reflections theme search is on!

Students are invited to submit their theme ideas to NYS PTA by Oct 30, 2025. The winning entry will receive a \$100 prize from National PTA.

→ [Reflections Theme entry form](#)



JUN 2025: Officers Training

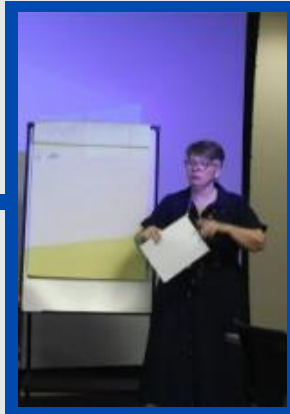
Leaders learning & growing
in PTA.



JUL 2025: Suffolk by the Sea

Our amazing presenters.

The Structure of Public Education in NYS
presented by
Catherine Romano
NYSSBA Area 12 Director/
ESBOCES School Board Member



How to Run an Effective Meeting
presented by Past Region Directors
Susan Lipman
&
Jacqueline Wilson

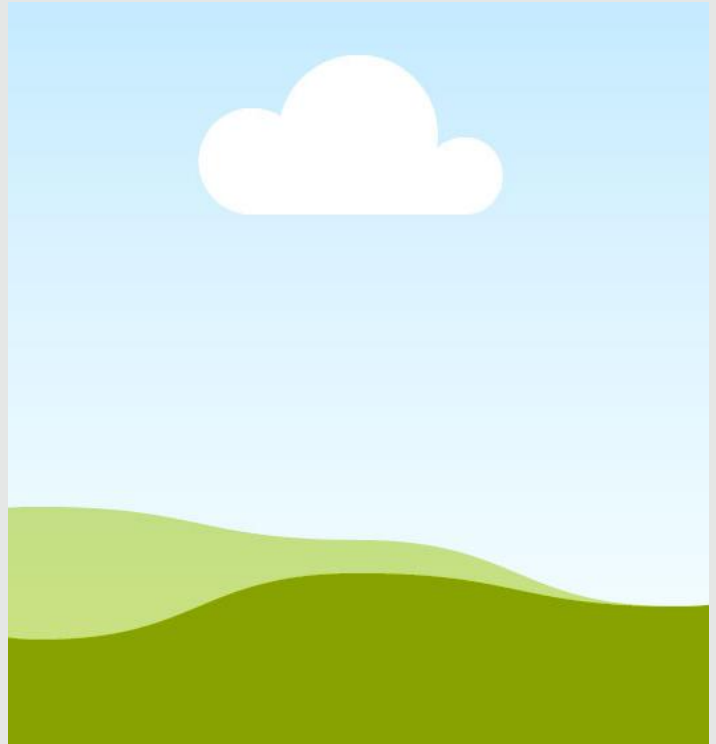


AUG 2025: Board of Managers Training

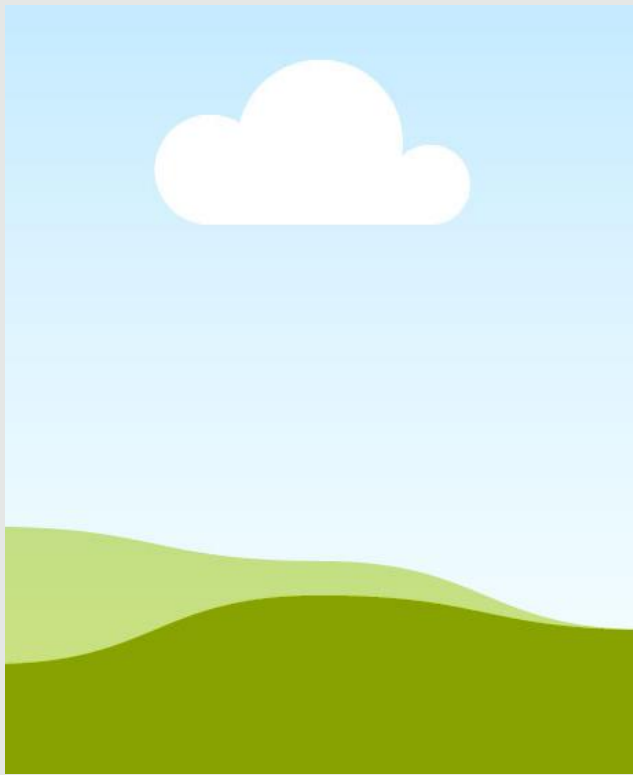
Getting ready to support you in the new
school year.



**Your PTA
Event
Pic Here!**



Caption for picture



Caption for picture

**SEND US A PIC OF
YOUR NEXT PTA
EVENT. IT COULD BE
FEATURED IN OUR
NEXT ISSUE!**

PHOTO SUBMISSION LINK

Questions? Email us: info@suffolkpta.org

PTA HAPPENINGS

Save the Date!
Suffolk Region PTA's Annual



PARTNERS IN PTA



DINNER



January 14, 2026
Villa Lombardi's, Holbrook
Join us for an evening of celebration and conversation.

✧ for all that you do!

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE *coming December 2025*

- Partners in PTA Dinner (1/14/ 2026)
- Winter Workshops (2/4 - 2/5/2025)
- Reflections Showcase (3/26/2026)
- Spring Conference (4/28/2026)

Visit us online: **suffolkpta.org**

Email us: info@suffolkpta.org