

# FACT SHEET 2008

## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of over 356,000 includes parents, teachers, administrators, students, and other child advocates statewide in over 1500 local units and councils.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. (NYS PTA) recognizes that every child deserves excellence in education and in quality of life. NYS PTA will maintain its commitment and service to all children and to its diverse membership through increased parent and community awareness, advocacy, education and involvement.

## PRESIDENT

Maria L. DeWald

Administration Theme -- PTA: Connecting the Dots

## HISTORY

New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers is the first state branch of the National Congress, organized in October 1897. In 1899 it was incorporated as The Mothers' Assembly of the State of New York. In 1920 it was reincorporated as the New York State Congress of Mothers' and Parent-Teacher Associations. In 1925 the name was changed to the New York State Congress of Parents and Teachers, Inc. The State PTA:

- Coordinates programs statewide on behalf of children and youth
- Is represented on state committees and commissions dealing with children and youth
- Provides conferences, workshops, publications, resource material on issues, and leadership development
- Services units and councils through its 16 region PTAs

## CONVENTIONS AND CONFERENCES

**Legislation/Education Conference:** PTA child advocates meet in Albany to address concerns about trends and conditions affecting children. The dates for Legislation/Education Conference are March 8 - 9, 2008.

**Summer Leadership Conference:** August 1-3, 2008 at Utica College, Utica, NY. Training through workshops and idea-sharing to assist unit and council leaders in all facets of leadership. A new Minority Leaders strand along with special PARP components and expanded technology workshop opportunities will be available this year.

**Parents As Reading Partners (PARP) Conferences:** Conference dates to be announced - Workshops and demonstrations on running successful PARP programs.

**State Annual Convention:** November 7-9, 2008 in Rochester, NY at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, where nearly 600 members from across the state come together to share information, elect officers, adopt resolutions, and attend workshops.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Fast Facts:** A monthly newsletter of current issues and events, sent to PTA presidents to share with members.

**New York Parent Teacher:** Published four times a year, this periodical focuses on topics of concern to parents, educators, and others interested in the well being of children and youth.

**New York State PTA Resource Guide:** A comprehensive resource of PTA information; it is mailed to unit and council presidents at the beginning of the school year.

**Legislative Briefs... and Advocacy Newsletter:** New legislative and advocacy publications.

**Where We Stand:** NYS PTA's official legislation and advocacy positions, including position papers.

## CURRENT PROGRAMS

**Building Successful Partnerships –** A National PTA Program that encourages parent involvement based on the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships: 1. Welcoming all families into the school community; 2. Communicating effectively; 3. Supporting student success; 4. Speaking up for every child; 5. Sharing power; 6. Collaborating with community. Workshops are provided upon request.

**Parents As Reading Partners (PARP):** Initially created by Sen. James Donovan and now administered by NYS PTA, this program encourages literacy-based activities.

**Reflections Program:** Facilitated through National PTAs Reflections Program, which recognizes outstanding contributions to the Arts by Kindergarten - 12<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## OUR WORK WITH COALITIONS, COMMISSIONS, AND BOARDS

New York State PTA, as the recognized statewide parent organization, is a member of many statewide coalitions, commissions, and boards. When the State Education Department is looking for parent input, we are the group they look to. Listed are some of the groups with which we work:

**Educational Conference Board (ECB)**, a coalition of statewide educational organizations representing parents, teachers, administrators, and other school personnel associated with each of New York State's over 4,000 public schools, which addresses issues of mutual concern that affect education and the welfare of children. ECB members encourage their constituencies to provide funding and regulations necessary for the improvement of education along with health and welfare issues for children.

**New York State Board of Regents** meetings are attended by a representative of NYS PTA. The actions and proposals of the Regents are reported to the membership through the *Ed News* report available on our website. The PTA representative is frequently called upon to sit on special committees formed by the Board of Regents and/or the Commissioner of Education.

**New York Comprehensive Center:** An arm of the Federal NCLB Committee, its 16 members were appointed by the Governor and charged with assuring NYS is compliant with all federal NCLB requirements in addition to reporting on aspects of the law which should be retained or changed

**New York State Department of Education Committee of Practitioners** was established, by law, as a means for the State Education Department staff to consult with the field regarding the implementation of NCLB regulations in New York State.

**Professional Standards and Practices Board for Teaching:** Members are appointed to four year terms and advise the Board of Regents and the Commissioner of Education on matters related to teaching in NYS.

**Rural Schools Association:** A statewide coalition to advocate for small and rural schools.

**The Coalition for Healthier Schools** consists of 400 local, state, and national partners leading *National Healthy Schools Day*. It focuses on: 1) High Performance School Design/Construction consistent with children's needs for healthy environments; 2) Greening Existing Schools; and 3) Environmental Public Health for Children who are disproportionately affected by environmental exposures.

## FIELD SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

The New York State PTA provides field service to local units statewide through region conferences, workshops, schools of instruction and numerous publications and materials.

## NEW YORK STATE PTA AWARDS

**Advocate in Action Award:** A new award designed to recognize members who take part in activities that advance our PTA Mission and Purposes.

**Distinguished Service Award:** Highest State award to be presented to PTA members who have made outstanding contributions to the welfare of children and youth or to the PTA organization.

**Growth Through Leadership Award Phase II:** Established in 2000 to recognize PTA members who participate in leadership training. (Phase II will conclude on October 5 of this year.)

**Honorary Life Membership:** Awarded to individuals giving outstanding service on behalf of children and youth.

**Leadership Award in Honor of Jane Skrzypek:** Established in 1991 to recognize outstanding PTA volunteerism.

**Newsletter Award:** Presented to the PTA newsletter that provides the reader with national state, region and local information about educational concerns and the PTA.

**Parents As Reading Partners Award:** Recognizes outstanding PARP program at the region and state levels.

### Twin Projects:

**NYS PTA Teacher Fellowship for Graduate Study - In Memory of Richard Gazzola** and the **Jenkins Memorial Scholarship for Teacher Education.**

**Youth Humanitarian Award – in Memory of Stanley Marcus:** Recognizes a high school senior or junior who exemplifies humanitarianism.

## OFFICE

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