



March President's Message

It has been a busy time for New York State PTA since I wrote last. Our Legislation/Education Conference took place in Albany from February 28 – March 1. Based on the feedback we received it was a very successful conference with attendees garnering much useful information. It is gratifying to know that the conferences we provide are so well received by those who attend. It is disappointing, however, that more do not attend. While we can and do share some of the materials distributed, what one misses by not attending is the opportunity to have questions answered and the ability to connect and network with other members from around the state. The benefit of sharing information with one another is priceless. We were extremely grateful to have had Congressman Paul Tonko as one of our keynote speakers and also appreciative of his support for the issues important to our organization.

We are also grateful for the sponsorship for this event from Arnold Bread. We partnered with them to promote a healthy sandwich recipe contest for students. As a small part of that sponsorship, they supplied a loaf of their new 100% natural soft white whole grain bread for every delegate that attended our Legislation/Education Conference. So you never know what you will miss if you do not attend!

As I began writing this I was sitting in the airport in Washington D.C. after attending the National PTA Legislation Conference and Lobby Day. Also representing NYS PTA was Lana Ajemian, Stephanie Fehr and Catherine Romano. We spent some of the time in sessions getting more fully informed regarding the priority issues of PTA. On March 12th, representatives from the various state congresses, all went to Capitol Hill to meet with their legislators. We had appointments with Senator Schumer, Representative Carolyn McCarthy and staff members of Senator Gillibrand, Representatives Nita Lowey, Timothy Bishop and Yvette Clark. We shared with each the priorities of PTA. At the Juvenile Justice committee hearing which Rep. McCarthy chairs, and which immediately followed our meeting with her, she mentioned just having met with us and the concerns we shared.

I complete this message upon our return from Albany where on March 16 - 17 we prepared our newly designated Region Advocacy Partners and went to our state Capitol to meet with legislators there on the issues of specific importance to NYS. Some of those you were asked to act upon on Virtual Lobby Day on March 18th.

Representing you and the interests of children and youth to our state and federal legislators is only one piece of the work we do on your behalf. We know that it makes a difference and appreciate the support you give us in doing so. We encourage each of you to advocate to your legislators locally as a follow up to our state and federal efforts. They really do want to know what we think!

Susan Lipman
NYS PTA President

