



Dear PTA Presidents,

For over 114 years, the PTA has been the association that our nation's families rely on to represent public education and children. PTA is the bedrock of most school communities, providing a place for parents and teachers to belong to a group that utilizes its' collective power to achieve the goals of advocating for improving the health and welfare of all children.

Over the past ten years, National PTA has wrestled with continuing to leverage our collective power while still providing the services that are needed at the local level. Although costs have risen considerably during that period, PTA has chosen to reduce expenses rather than increase dues. With consideration of the rising costs, the expense reductions already implemented and increased demand for services, the National PTA Board of Directors recommended the first dues increase in ten years.

At the recent National PTA Convention, delegates vigorously discussed the issues facing our association. It was after much debate that delegates voted to raise National PTA's portion of the member dues from \$1.75 to \$2.25. With this change, the member dues for the combined New York State PTA and National PTA will increase from \$3.50 to \$4.00 beginning July 1, 2011. This dues increase will benefit members at every level and put tools and practices in place to communicate with and serve PTA members in newer, more effective ways.

**\*\* The following statement is in the NYS PTA Unit and Council Bylaws \*\***

The adoption of an amendment to any provision of the bylaws of the National PTA or to the bylaws of the New York State PTA, identified by the state symbol (#), shall serve automatically and without the requirement of further action by the local PTA to amend correspondingly the bylaws of each local PTA.

**How will this affect our current bylaws?**

- ✓ If your current dues for your members are \$3.50, it will automatically become \$4.00 and you will not need a bylaws amendment.
- ✓ If your current dues for your membership are over \$3.50, but for an additional family member or for your students your bylaws state \$3.50, they too will automatically become \$4.00 and you will not need a bylaws amendment.

**What if we want to increase our dues to make up for the National PTA dues increase?**

- ✓ You will need to provide your membership with 30 days' notice of the meeting date when you will vote on a membership dues increase. You will need to vote on this increase prior to 9/30/11 as that is when your current membership cards expire.
- ✓ If your dues increase is approved, you will need to revise your bylaws and we are asking you to do this using Bylaws EZ so that they will be processed electronically and quickly. Please go to our website [www.nyspta.org](http://www.nyspta.org) and on the right hand side of our homepage you will see Quick Links. Click on Bylaws EZ and you will see the Bylaws EZ Instructions and link to the website. It takes no more than 10 minutes to complete.

**Can we vote on an increase at our first meeting of the school year and then collect the new dues amount prior to revising our bylaws with Bylaws EZ?**

- ✓ Yes – **BUT...** You must process your Bylaws EZ **immediately** following this meeting and send the signed and dated Cover Sheet to your Region Bylaws Chair who will review the bylaws and send them electronically to the NYS PTA Bylaws Coordinator for approval. You will receive two hard copies back along with a pdf version that you may share with your board members as needed.