This newsletter and those to follow will address PTA information in general and specifically PTA information from New York State PTA and Genesee Valley Region PTA.

Notes from the Director

As we begin this new year, it is a great time to review your PTA goals. At the NYS PTA Convention in Buffalo last November we elected a new State President, Dr. Maria Fletcher, her vision is “Making a Difference Together”. Genesee Valley wants to help achieve this vision. Feel free to contact your Associate Director or myself with any questions that you may have.

We are going to have a Spring Training for you. The date is March 22nd so mark your calendar. We will offer round table discussions for Elections, Budgets, and Bylaws. These are all important things that take place in the spring.

There are also some other dates that you should get on the calendar. March 19-20 is the Legislation/Education Conference, Albany NY (this is a state event and the registration form is on the NYS PTA Website). March 22 will be our Spring Training.

May 11 will be Spring Conference. This is Genesee Valley’s Annual Meeting so we hope that you will be able to attend. More information will be coming soon.

Remember we can make a difference by working together.

Gail Gligora
Genesee Valley Region Director

The National PTA Legislative Committee has announced the selection of

NYS PTA as the recipient of the 2011 PTA Outstanding Advocacy Award and

Lana Ajemian as winner of the 2011 Shirley Igo Advocate of the Year Award

Urge Your State Representative to Oppose Property Tax Caps

As has been evidenced by the experience of other states, property tax caps are no way to remedy the loss of state revenue. They are punitive to both schools and communities. They are devastating to programs, jobs and services. They undermine the integrity and tradition of local control and disproportionately harm our most needy and vulnerable neighborhoods.

See additional information on Proposed Property Tax Caps on the Monroe County School Boards Association website.

http://mcsba.org/
Treasurers’ Checklist

- Send membership payments each month and the final year-end one by March 25th. Memberships can be sent in year-round but ones received after March 31st will not be included in your unit’s official membership count for the year. Only units that have sent in 25 or more memberships are eligible for student awards and for unit benefits and awards.
- Your unit’s insurance payment is due by June 1st. Make sure you send it in May so you get the discount!
- Two signatures are required on each PTA check.
- Start your 2011-12 budget now, planning how your unit wishes to allocate for programs and events during the next year. Genesee Valley Region will be holding a training for units on March 22nd, 6:30 pm – one of the workshops will be Budgets, Audits & IRS Form 990. Make sure someone attends from your unit to receive a lot of helpful information about these two tasks that need to be completed by the end of your fiscal year!

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Twardokus by email treasurer@gvpta.org or at 585-657-7722.

Darlene’s Corner
Timely reminders to units

Membership – Keep selling Memberships! March 31st is the official end of the membership cycle for the year. All Dues are to be sent to NYS PTA by March 31—not postmarked—but in the possession of NYS PTA. Any unsold membership cards should be returned to the Region Membership Chair – Glenda Lockard. Delinquency in remitting dues, or sending back unsold cards, results in massive holdups when distributing cards for next year, so please be sure to take care of this in a timely fashion! If you need any more specific membership info please contact your Associate Director or Assistant Director.

As you get ready to close your membership books for the year, you should actively be seeking leadership for your unit for next year. You should select your nominating committees and have them in place soon so that they can begin to consider qualified candidates for open board positions.

Along with getting your nominations in place, your unit will want to consider unit budgetary items for next year. Information about Summer Experience and NYS PTA Convention (which will be in Niagara Falls in November) are available on the State PTA website, so you can budget accordingly for these events.

School Budget issues, both NY State and local school districts, will be front and center for the next few months. Be aware, be watchful and be pro-active!

PTA Lobby/Virtual Lobby Days
Although PTA advocacy is a year-round effort, March has been traditionally designated PTA Advocacy Month. PTA is holding Lobby and Virtual Lobby Days on March 21 and 22. Please consider getting your parents together to contact legislators about the many educational issues facing our schools, especially as we address the financial/budget woes in New York. There is Lobby Day info on the NYSPTA website... http://www.nyspta.org/advocacy/lobbyday.cfm

Region Spring Conference – Please save the date and plan on joining us on May 11. This is our Region’s Annual Meeting, which includes the election of our Region Officers for next year and it won’t be a success without you!! More details will follow.

P & P Dinner
December 9, 2010

Ester Gliwinski received the J. Ernest DuBois Education Award.

Darlene Schuler received the GVPTA Ruberta Foster Leadership Award.

Elise Kelly, grade 10 and Peter Farruggia, grade 12, are accompanied by Mr. Eric Kelly, Music Teacher from York Central School.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Daniel P. Murray, superintendent of York Central Schools. He spoke about “Big Changes in Public Schools.”
P & P Dinner
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Dr. Murray referenced Jamie Vollmer’s book “Schools Cannot Do It Alone” and his list of changes in education and the Vollmer Terrible Trends. A video clip of Sir Ken Robinson was captivating.

Links to Dr. Murray’s presentation and related references are available at: ptagreeceny.org/gc/GCInformation.html.

Special Ed Workshops
These are offered for your information.

Managing the Move
February 16 from 6-8
Sodus Free Library, 17 Maple St., Sodus
Strategies to help promote a seamless transition and positive start to a new school year.

Getting and Keeping the First Job
February 17 from 7-9 pm
RL Thomas HS, 800 Five Mile Line Rd., Webster
registration and additional information at Colleen Brown (585) 546-1700 or brown@advocacycenter.com

504 Plan v IEP
March 17 from 7-9 pm
RL Thomas HS, 800 Five Mile Line Rd., Webster
registration and additional information at Colleen Brown (585) 546-1700 or brown@advocacycenter.com

NYSUT - NYS PTA --
A Guide to Special Education
What you need to know about special education for New York State students ages 3-21 [pdf]

HELP WANTED
Do you have a few hours a month to help advocate for children? Genesee Valley Region PTA is seeking candidates for various positions on the Region Board. Positions include:
- Leg/Ed Chair
- Assistant Directors
- ECHO newsletter editor
Please call Gene Kinney 585-586-0556 or e-mail him at gkinney@yahoo.com

Membership News
Although it’s already February, it’s not too late to sell PTA memberships! Memberships can be sold throughout the year, but since we close out the 2010/2011 membership year on March 31, now is the time to make a big final membership push.

Unit presidents will receive a membership mailing from NY State PTA by mid-February. Included in the mailing will be:
- an accounting of outstanding cards for your unit
- the membership awards application form
- instructions about returning unsold cards
- deadline reminders

Although the membership year ends on March 31, we are recommending that your final membership payment checks be postmarked by March 25, to ensure they will be delivered and processed before the 31st.

Good luck with the remainder of your membership drives!

NYS PTA Information

Fast Facts Web Page:
http://www.nyspta.org/publications/fastfacts.cfm

Legislative Briefs Web Page:
www.nyspta.org/publications/legislativebriefs.cfm

Advocacy News Web Page:
http://www.nyspta.org/publications/advocacynews.cfm

Where We Stand - includes current Resolutions and Position Papers
www.nyspta.org/advocacy/wherewestand.cfm

January Fast Facts document:

January Legislative Briefs document:

January Advocacy News document:
Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- **Feb 17**
  Founders Day
  [www.nyspta.org/awards/foundersday.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/awards/foundersday.cfm)

- **March 19-20**
  NYSPTA Legislation/Education Conference
  Albany, NY
  [nyspta.org/calendar/leged.cfm](http://nyspta.org/calendar/leged.cfm)

- **March 21**
  PTA Lobby Day
  Albany, NY
  [www.nyspta.org/advocacy/lobbyday.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/advocacy/lobbyday.cfm)

- **March 22**
  Virtual Lobby Day
  [www.nyspta.org/advocacy/lobbyday.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/advocacy/lobbyday.cfm)

- **March 22**
  GVPTA Spring Training

- **March 25 (deadline March 31)**
  Pay Membership Dues and return unsold cards

- **May 11**
  Genesee Valley Region PTA Spring Conference/Annual Mtg

- **June 1**
  Insurance payment due to state office

- **July 29-31**
  NYSPTA Summer Experience
  Utica College
  [www.nyspta.org/calendar/summer.cfm](http://www.nyspta.org/calendar/summer.cfm)