A different language is a different vision of life.
—Federico Fellini

Don't ask me who's influenced me. A lion is made up of the lambs he's digested, and I've been reading all my life.
—Giorgos Seferis

The successful revolutionary is a statesman, the unsuccessful one a criminal.
—Erich Fromm

Truth does not change according to our ability to stomach it.
—Flannery O'Connor

A teacher who is attempting to teach, without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn, is hammering on a cold iron.
—Horace Mann

A bookstore is one of the only pieces of evidence we have that people are still thinking.
—Jerry Seinfeld

The first human who hurled an insult instead of a stone was the founder of civilization.
—Sigmund Freud

It is a capital mistake to theorize before one has data. Insensibly one begins to twist facts to suit theories, instead of theories to suit facts.
—Arthur Conan Doyle

Training
If you haven't done so yet, think about sending people to a training activity. The state's Summer Leadership Conference in July is always amazing.

Locally, we will hold an evening Leadership Academy event in August. There are lots of webinars available on the national PTA website: https://www.pta.org/home/run-your-pta/elearning.

Insurance Payment
Your insurance payment is due June 15! Make sure you get it in on time or it will lapse.

Audit
Make sure you have an audit committee available to examine the books before a new treasurer takes over or the current one continues. If you need help, let us know and we can walk you through this process.

Spring Conference - Annual Meeting
We are hosting our regional Spring Conference on May 3. At this exciting event Patty Frazier, Western Region Director, will speak about advocacy—a PTA's prime role. We will also elect new region officers. There will be a basket raffle for our participants!
You may register at my.cheddarup.com/c/gvpta-springconf-2018

From the Region Director
Susan Brown, GVPTA Region Director, director@gvpta.org
Unbelievably spring- how it got here so fast I'll never know. This time of year goes so fast that we need to be on our toes about upcoming PTA deadlines. Some timely reminders:

Elections
If your unit has not had their elections yet, they should be happening soon. If you need help with this process let us know and we will provide support. In February the state hosted a webinar about Nominations and Elections. The slide deck is available here:

After your elections, the current president needs to update the Annual Officer Contact Information. In the past this was done through the Form A wizard. Beginning May 1st, the process will change. New officers will need to be identified (if changing) or updated to the new year (if continuing). Units will still have the option to complete the paper form of the Annual Officer Contact Information (Form A) and submit it to the Region Director.

All current officers will receive an email on or about May 1 to walk you through the process of logging into your MemberHub site and provide instructions on how to navigate your site and make officer changes.

If your new officers are not elected before July, please complete the form anyway. We can update when you have new officers. This ensures that information continues to go to your unit.

Information from National and New York State PTA and the Genesee Valley Region.
Treasurer’s Corner
Michael Valicenti, GVPTA Treasurer
treasurer@gvpta.org or mvalicenti@sjfc.edu

Unit treasurers should begin organizing paperwork for your annual audit. If you are an outgoing treasurer, this will help ensure a smooth financial transition for your unit. First year treasurers should also organize their paperwork to facilitate preparing your first audit. Audits should be completed and reviewed by non-check signers shortly after the end of your fiscal year, which is June 30th.

Start thinking about a budget for next year. The unit should form a budget committee of three to five members, including the treasurer, in order to start planning fundraisers and activities for next year. Once you have held your final events you can finalize the budget.

Please attend the Region Spring Conference on May 3rd and any other training that you can.

Keep an eye out for the insurance invoices for next year’s insurance.

Please contact me with any questions.

Unit Insurance Info
Susan Brown, GVPTA Region Director,
director@gvpta.org

Your insurance current policy will expire on June 30. The effective date of your new policy will be July 1 or the date you successfully complete the renewal paperwork and your premium is received, whichever is later. In other words, if you do not complete your renewal application by the deadline, your policy will have a lapse in coverage.

Insurance certificates will be sent in the mail to the unit president as soon as the renewal is complete. This will be the certificate that is provided to the district and may be shown as proof of insurance.

Policy documents will be emailed to the president and are for your unit records only.

Reminder – the premiums are as follows:
- SEPTA – $100
- 1 Building – $300
- Each additional building – $200

Sympathies
Our hearts go out to the School 12 community for the loss of Treyvon Rowe. We, as a community, support efforts to prevent any such tragedies from happening again. Their PTA is being active in working to help the school cope.

Special Education
PTA leaders sometimes wonder why they need to be concerned about special education. This article Four Ways Schools Fail Special Education Students from Ed Week at www.edweek.org/ew/articles/2018/02/15/four-ways-schools-fail-special-education-students.html addresses concerns with special education services. Because special education students who do not receive adequate education cost the community more, as a society, we need to ensure they optimize their opportunities. These issues might be ones parents and students in your school are dealing with.

Looking for a few good men or women
Every year our region board works with units to help them be successful. We cannot do that without new volunteers stepping up and joining our us. If you are interested in helping others within PTA, let me know. In order to do the things we do—trainings, awards, celebrations, and support—we need you to step up and help out.

Please contact Susan at ptasusanb@gmail.com to learn how you can help out.

NYS PTA Webinars
Dealing with Difficult People and Conflicts – May 23, 2018
Build your skill set for resolving conflicts with others and for helping other PTA members learn to work through a conflict, complete with tips for dealing with obstructive administrators and difficult parents and resolving problems before they lead to conflict.

Planning to attend? Please RSVP with your name and unit code to RSVP@nyspta.org

More...
Videos and slides of previous webinars are on-line
- Creating an Inclusive Culture of Volunteer Engagement
- Nominations and Elections
- “Be It Resolved”...Time for Resolutions!
- Fiscal Fitness for Units: A Guide for Treasurers
- Monthly Bank Reconciliation Form [pdf]
- Building Great Relationships with School and District Leadership
Genesee Valley Region PTA invites ALL PTA members to

GVPTA Annual Spring Conference

Thursday, May 3rd
6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Celebrating “All Things Rochester”

The Stock Exchange Restaurant
First Federal Plaza
28 E Main St #120
Rochester, NY 14614

On-Site underground Parking available in Corinthian Street parking garage.
(First Federal Plaza Private Parking Sign)

Tickets $15/person
(a legitimate PTA expense

Registration

gvpta-springconf-2018.cheddarup.com

Or mail check to:
Sonya Verrillo
113 Broadmoor Trail
Fairport, NY 14450

Business meeting followed by networking

Hors d’oeuvres
Soft drinks
Dessert
included
Cash bar
Basket Bazaar

Event chairs
Kim Breidenstein 585-662-9594
Patricia Damon 585-739-9878

The PTA is...

• 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

nyspta.org/AboutPTA/AboutPTA_Purposes.cfm

If you have any questions or need help with anything PTA, please contact an Assistant or Associate Director, Officer, or the Region Director. “The Voice of NYS PTA” page/blog provides thoughts and commentary from the President of the NYS PTA, Gracemarie Rozea, on topics of interest to our membership. Please click to read the latest message. nysptapresident.blogspot.com/

GVPTA Executive Committee 2017-18
Susan Brown, Region Director director@gvpta.org
Sonya Verrillo, Secretary secretary@gvpta.org
Michael Valicenti, Treasurer treasurer@gvpta.org
Julia Anello, Associate Director hope4julia@gmail.com
Antonia Beaty, Associate Director AntoniaBeaty@gvpta.org
Jori Cincotta, Associate Director JoriCincotta@gvpta.org
Kathy Giles, Associate Director KathyGiles@gvpta.org
Lisa Christoffel, Past Region Director lchristoffel80@gmail.com
Gene Kinney, Past Region Director GeneKinney@gvpta.org
Mary Twardokus, Past Region Director MaryTwardokus@gvpta.org

Additional GVPTA Contacts are listed on the web site

NYS PTA Resources

NYS PTA Fact Sheet [pdf]
Advocacy
nyspta.org/home/advocacy/
Legislative Program
nyspta.org/home/advocacy/advocacy-legislative-program/
NYS PTA Take Action
nyspta.org/home/advocacy/take-action/
GVPTA Facebook Group, GVPTA.org

Where We Stand [pdf] - includes current Resolutions and Position Papers

The New York State PTA Resource Guide is available for your use as a PTA member. nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/nys-pta-resource-guide/

Our Children Magazine (National PTA)
ptaourchildren.org/

Leadership Webinar Series

Upcoming Events, Deadlines, and Reminders

Spring Conference, May 3
Thursday, May 3rd, 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm
The Stock Exchange Restaurant, First Federal Plaza
28 E Main St #120, Rochester, NY 14614

Plan to get out to vote May 15
Understand your school district’s 2018—19 budget, propositions, and school board candidates.

Hold Unit Elections
Elect officers and update the Officer Contact Information via MemberHub.

Pay Insurance by June 15
Your insurance payment is due June 15!

PTA Members and Leaders:
Did you know that your PTA unit is an advocacy association—not a booster organization? That means your PTA should focus most of its time implementing the PTA’s mission/ vision.https://nyspta.org/home/about/values-mission-vision/
https://nyspta.org/home/pta-leaders/run-your-pta/

#WhyPTA #PTAProud #DoGoodThingsForKids