



As the school year and my Presidency come to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to recap our achievements of the past year. In spite of all of the challenges, we had a good year.

First, we are 204 members strong, a record membership number, thanks to the hard work and recruitment efforts of our membership team. We were the recipients of three awards at the State PTA Convention, most notably the award for 10% increase in membership.

Second, SEPTA Sisters events grew. New and exciting events such as the Flying Dish Get Acquainted Night, Bizzie Lizzie Beading Party, and Entrees Made Easy SEPTA Social brought newer and more seasoned members together and also made a few dollars for SEPTA's programs.

New programs such as SEPTA Golf and Arts for Healing Theater program were introduced. A third Family Fun Night was added and our highly successful teen program was launched. A fun time was had by all at "Aladdin" at the Cabaret Theater.

It was a dynamic year for Parent Education programs and speakers such as Families as Partners Training for our new parents, Deputy Police Chief Gary McNamera, our Health Coordinators Lori Mediate and Yvonne Pacifico, and our first annual Provider Fair.

In the area of communications, our web site was expanded. The SEPTA Star, our first electronic newsletter was introduced.

SEPTA began to reach out to the Community and beyond by participating at provider fairs at area churches, the town Health and Safety Fair, and by having a presence at all three firehouses during "Touch a Truck" day. SEPTA began collaboration with the Toulouani Center in Nigeria for children with special needs and parent resource center.

As my presidency comes to an end, I have been reflecting on the topics of advocacy and stewardship. We all advocate for our children, but the real challenge comes when we are called to stewardship-to be there to light the way for the younger parents.

We have an obligation to make sure that strong and vibrant SEPTA is here for them. As Brian Kelehan, recent Deanna O. Kiernan recipient, recently challenged me-just because my soon to be adult daughter is aging out of the system doesn't mean that I have to. I'm going to be advocating for all children with special needs and challenges for a very long time!

Thank you, my fellow SEPTA members, and thank you to the Executive Board without whose expertise, support, and encouragement I could not have survived my term as your president.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Relaxing Summer!

Elaine