

**NYSTRA**  
PO BOX 179, Riverdale Station, Bronx, NY 10467

***NYSTRA***  
***Annual Report***  
***2015-2016***

**NYSTRA BOARD MEMBERS 2015 – 2016**

**Executive Board**

President – Susan Colletti, CTRS  
President Elect – Shari Burshtyn, CTRS  
Treasurer – Tameka Battle, CTRS  
Secretary – Janette Leonidas, CTRS  
Past President – Loretta Plescia, CTRS-SBH

**Members at Large**

Conference – Mary Pearson, CTRS & Sharon Diaz-Palatucci, CTRS  
Downstate Conference – Latina Ferrar, CTRS  
Upstate Workshops – Daniele Fish, CTRS  
Legislation/Advocacy/PR – Cathy Diamond, CTRS  
Fundraising – Jennifer Colon, CTRS  
Newsletter – Sue Lance, CTRS  
Membership – Carolyn Franklin, CTRS



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## Accomplishments and Goals

### **PRESIDENT**

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

- Lead and supported NYSTRA Board members in their respective roles
- Engaged in ongoing dialogue with NYSRPS for mutual support of organizations
- Continued support of the efforts of TR Licensure within the state of New York
- Supported members who sought election to NYSTRA Board
- Explored various online meeting tools for NYSTRA Board meetings

*Worked with the board to implement the following goals:*

- Increased NYSTRA membership
- Increased use of social media
- Promote NYSTRA statewide and nationally as appropriate

2016-2017 Goals:

- Continue to support all board members and activities, with additional support to new board members as needed
- Increase the availability of one-day workshops around the state
- Continue dialogue and collaboration with NYSRPS
- Increase member involvement
- Coordinate Board Meetings 6x/year
- Communicate with the membership via email blasts and FB Postings

### **PRESIDENT ELECT**

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

- Position was filled after an extended vacancy

2016-2017 Goals:

- Support the board in all activities
- Lead the board in the absence of the President
- Prepare to transition into the role of President

### **TREASURER**

2015-2016 Accomplishments:

- Maintained financial operations of NYSTRA
- Maintained NYSTRA's security matrix systems
- Successfully implement and maintained NYSTRA's email marketing campaign with Membership to increase membership engagement through email communications and social media.
- Maintained NYSTRA's website/Paypal functions for membership and conference payments



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- Continued to assist with marketing NYSTRA during the Annual Downstate TR Conference and 8th Annual VISN 2 TR Conference
- Provided support to President and President-Elect during transition year
- Worked with Conference Co-Chairs on conference related functions

## 2016-17 Goals:

- Work with new President on the overall operations and functions related to NYSTRA
- Continue to work with Membership Chair, Conference Co-Chairs and PR Advocacy Board member on recruiting new members and offering NYSTRA sponsored workshops/conferences
- Continue to maintain the financial operations of NYSTRA

## SECRETARY

### 2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Took the minutes for the NYSTRA board meetings in a timely manner
- Handled NYSTRA correspondence as requested by the Board
- Contributed regularly to the newsletter
- Ensured the NYSTRA website stays up to date working with appropriate webmasters and members of the board
- Actively continuing to archive NYSTRA history in hard copy binders and I visited NYSTRA's closet at NCTRC to become more organized

### 2016-2017 Goals

- Continue to handle responsibilities of Secretary
- Continue to assist/contribute to NYSTRA newsletter including providing support to the new Newsletter Chairperson
- Continue oversight of the NYSTRA website
- Continue to achieving NYSTRA history in hard copy

## PAST PRESIDENT

### 2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Worked on special projects as needed

### 2016-2017 Goals

- Remain active and available to the new President and Board for guidance and mentoring
- Establish regular newsletter column "Who's Who among NYSTRA Members"
- Support member involvement
- Explore updating the bylaws & constitution

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

### 2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Put out call for abstracts and coordinated all aspects of multi-day conference
- Secured dates/venue for 2017 conference
- Got all sessions Pre-Approved for CEU's through NCTRC including Pre-Conference
- Providing new hospitality events for conference



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## 2016-2017 Goals

- Recruit members to take a more active role in conference planning & execution
- Ensure all conference sessions are pre-approved for CEU's
- Secure dates/venue for 2018 conference
- Create operational transitions binders for next conference co-chairs to ease changeover and create stability

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – UPSTATE WORKSHOPS

### 2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Sought out online learning opportunities for members
- Worked with Forsyth Park Learning to crease “NYSTRA Members Only” special discounts

### 2016-2017 Goals

- Coordinate 2-3 educational opportunities in the upstate regions

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT – DOWNSTATE CONFERENCE

### 2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Headed up the Downstate Conference Committee, and provided input regarding Therapeutic Recreation sessions for the conference
- Assisted with merchandise sales and membership at the Annual Downstate Conference at the Westchester County Center in November 2015

### 2016-2017 Goals

- Serve on the Downstate Conference Committee and provide feedback on abstracts submitted from a Therapeutic Recreation perspective
- Provide support to organizers of one-day or half-day workshop(s) in the downstate region
- Utilize NYSTRA newsletter and email on updates regarding Annual Downstate Conference and/or workshop(s) in the downstate region
- Work closely with NYSRPS on reporting and collecting conference revenue from Annual Downstate Conference to NYSTRA Board Members

## LEGISLATION/ADVOCACY/PUBLIC RELATIONS

### 2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Outreach to NYC High Schools providing PR about TR

### 2016-2017 Goals

- Promote NYSTRA across the state
- Inform the membership of current legislation affecting Therapeutic Recreation
- Assist with membership drives



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## FUNDRAISING

2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Numerous new merchandise products offered at conference

2016-2017 Goals

- Increase revenue via merchandise sales
- Explore additional means of fundraising

## MEMBERSHIP

2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Fully oriented and provided with guidance from previous Membership Chair
- Maintained & updated membership list
- Sent out email blasts in timely manner after receipt from various board members
- Sent out membership certificates for new & renewals

2016-2017 Goals

- Increase awareness of NYSTRA, increase membership and advocate for TR
- Maintain accurate membership list of current members
- Increase membership by actively recruiting professionals, associate and students
- Assist Executive Board with addition of on-line PayPal option for membership application
- Organize and Maintain accurate contact list for email blasts on yahoo account

## NEWSLETTER

2015-2016 Accomplishments

- Distributing the newsletter in a timely fashion, by or close to the 1st of the corresponding month
- Ordered "Ask Me" buttons for conference
- Solicited newsletter articles from NYSTRA Membership
- Communicated with TR Licensure Committee to obtain seasonal updates re licensure in NY State

2016-2017 Goals

- Continue to distribute the newsletter in a timely fashion, by or close to the 1st of the corresponding month
- Reach out to schools and their teachers to recruit articles from students
- Reach out to other professionals not on the NYSTRA board for their article input
- Continue to communicate with TR Licensure Committee correspondent to obtain seasonal updates re: Licensure in NY State
- Maintain strict deadline for articles to be due (the 5th of the prior month)
- Include information re: upcoming conferences, trainings, and workshops to be included as a regular newsletter item



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## STUDENT LIASION

2016-2017 Goals:

- Increase student membership
- Increase student participation in conferences

