

Comsewogue SEPTA

Membership # _____

Special Education Parent Teacher Association

Cash/Check # _____

Dear SEPTA Friends,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year! SEPTA is a group that educates, advocates, and supports families of children with special needs. Our meetings address helpful topics and include guest speakers to discuss: understanding an IEP, navigating the CSE process, social skills, planning your child's future, homework help, stress management, behavior management tips and more. SEPTA meetings give you the opportunity to meet other individuals with similar concerns. Here we exchange ideas and socialize while striving to help our children.

Meetings are virtual, Google Meet at 7pm, dates listed below. The link is on the Comsewogue School District website and app, Pupil Personnel tab to SEPTA tab.

**2023 Meeting Dates: September 15, October 13, November 10, January 11,
February 9, March 9, April 20, May 10**

WAYS YOU CAN JOIN SEPTA

Complete and return this form with a check, to your teacher. Addressed to
Comsewogue SEPTA.

Visit SEPTA page, under Pupil Personnel, on the Comsewogue website. Tap link to
Member Hub or download form.

SEPTA Membership Form 2022-2023: \$10.00 1st Member; \$7.00 each additional member. Make check payable to: COMSEWOGUE SEPTA.

Member Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

I am: Parent_____ Teacher_____ Admin_____ Other_____

Child/Children's Name(s)	School	Grade	Teacher
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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SEPTA Scholarship Donation: Consider an additional donation: \$ _____

Please return this form, check payable to Comsewogue SEPTA, to your child's school and write "Comsewogue SEPTA" on the envelope.

Do you have a topic you'd like us to discuss? _____,

What is SEPTA?

Over the years many parents have asked me and other SEPTA members this question together with what do we do? How is SEPTA different from any other PTA? I will try and answer these questions, and hopefully, you will better understand what SEPTA is and does.

SEPTA stands for Special Education Parent Teacher Association. SEPTA is a PTA within a school district that brings together people interested in children with educational needs that cannot be fully met in the regular classroom setting. These children may be in a Special Education contained class, Resource, Speech, etc. or they may be in a Gifted and Talented Program. These are all children with special needs.

SEPTAs were organized to support, strengthen and promote a greater awareness of special children. We promote an understanding of the student's needs, while striving to discover and implement ways of best meeting them. A SEPTA is no different from any other PTA. We must follow the same guidelines, bylaws, procedures and regulations that govern all PTAs.

Our main purpose is advocating for children, all children. We keep abreast of the changes in the Education Law and the Regents to be able to bring this information to all of the PTAs in our districts. We sponsor workshops on a myriad of subjects, from Attention Deficit Disorder to developing and improving Parenting Skills. All workshops are open to everyone, and we encourage attendance and participation from the entire community.

Our members consist of parents, teachers, students, administrators and friends. Anyone interested in improving the quality of the education of children with special needs are needed and wanted.

You see, we are really no different from any other PTA. We are perceived to be usually very vocal and outspoken, which is true. But you must remember, children cannot speak for themselves on issues, so we must speak for them.

The next time someone asks, "What is SEPTA?", you will be able to give them the answer that they need to hear.

Jacqueline Milton

Comsewogue SEPTA

Membresía # _____

Asociación de Padres y Maestros de Educación Especial

Efectivo/Cheque # _____

Estimados amigos de SEPTA,

¡Bienvenido al año escolar 2022-2023! SEPTA es un grupo que educa, aboga y apoya a las familias de niños con necesidades especiales. Nuestras reuniones abordan temas útiles e incluyen oradores invitados para discutir: comprender un IEP, navegar por el proceso de CSE, habilidades sociales, planificar el futuro de su hijo, ayuda con la tarea, manejo del estrés, consejos para el manejo del comportamiento y más. Las reuniones de SEPTA le dan la oportunidad de conocer a otras personas con inquietudes similares. Aquí intercambiamos ideas y socializamos mientras nos esforzamos por ayudar a nuestros hijos.

Las reuniones son virtuales, Google Meet a las 7pm, fechas que se enumeran a continuación. El enlace está en el sitio web y la aplicación del Distrito Escolar de Comsewogue, la pestaña Personal de alumnos a la pestaña SEPTA.

Fechas de la reunión de 2023: 15 de septiembre, 13 de octubre, 10 de noviembre, 11 de enero, 9 de febrero, 9 de marzo, 20 de abril, 10 de mayo

FORMAS EN QUE PUEDE UNIRSE A SEPTA

Complete y devuelva este formulario con un cheque, a su maestro. Dirigido a Comsewogue SEPTA.

Visite la página de SEPTA, en Personal de alumnos, en el sitio web de Comsewogue. Toca vincular al Centro de miembros o descargar el formulario.

Formulario de membresía de SEPTA 2022-2023: \$10.00 ^{1er} Miembro; \$7.00 cada miembro adicional. Hacer cheque pagadero a: COMSEWOGUE SEPTA.

Nombre(s) del miembro(s): _____

Dirección: _____

Número de teléfono: _____ Correo electrónico: _____

Soy yo: Padre _____ Maestro _____ Admin _____ Otra cosa _____

Nombre(s) de niño/niño(s)	Escuela	Grado	Maestro
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Donación de becas SEPTA: Considere una donación adicional: \$ _____

Por favor devuelva este formulario, cheque pagadero a Comsewogue SEPTA, a la escuela de su hijo y escriba "Comsewogue SEPTA" en el sobre.

¿Tienes algún tema que te gustaría que discutiéramos?

_____,



SHERIFF'S OFFICE, COUNTY OF SUFFOLK, N.Y.

ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

PROJECT LIFESAVER BUREAU

100 CENTER DRIVE

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. 11901

(631) 852-3003

ERROL D. TOULON, JR., Ed.D.

SHERIFF

PROJECT LIFESAVER: PROTECTING OUR MOST VULNERABLE CITIZENS

The Suffolk County Sheriffs Office Project Lifesaver program is a countywide emergency response locator service capable of finding individuals diagnosed with cognitive impairments which may cause them to wander and become lost.

Project Lifesaver combines proven radio technology and specially trained Deputy Sheriff search and rescue personnel from the Suffolk County Sheriffs Office. Project Lifesaver clients wear a personalized one ounce battery operated transmitter bracelet which emits a tracking signal every second, 24 hours a day. Transmitters are approximately the size of a quarter and each transmitter has its own unique frequency.



When a caregiver notifies the Sheriffs Office Emergency Response Line (631-852-2791) that a Project Lifesaver client has wandered, specially trained Deputy Sheriff Project Lifesaver personnel are immediately dispatched, and while in route to the client's last reported location, activates a vehicle mounted locator tracking system and begins searching. A hand- held mobile locator tracking unit is used for search areas inaccessible by vehicle. The transmitter signal can be tracked on the ground or in the air from distances of up to several miles.



PROJECT LIFESAVER SEARCHES

The client's transmitter, also known as the Personal Locator Unit (P.L.U.), emits a tracking signal every second. This tracking signal allows responders to triangulate the client's exact location and safely return them to their home or care facility, reducing caregiver concern, stress and worry.

Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver personnel are specially trained, not only in search and rescue with the use of the electronic tracking equipment, but also in the methods necessary to communicate with a person who has a cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's, Dementia, Autism, Down Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, etc.

PROJECT LIFESAVER SAVES LIVES

Search times have been reduced from hours and/or days to minutes. In over 3,300 searches, Project Lifesaver International reports that there have been no reported serious injuries or deaths. As of October 2018, the Suffolk County Sheriffs Office's average search time for missing Project Lifesaver clients is under 11 minutes.

HOW TO ENROLL IN PROJECT LIFESAVER

Enrollment applications can be requested by calling (631) 852-3003 or by email at: lifesaver@suffolkcountyny.gov.

CRITERIA USED TO DETERMINE CLIENT ELIGIBILITY

- Clients must be a resident of Suffolk County.
- Persons with a history of wandering related to cognitive impairments such as Autism, Alzheimer's, Dementia, Down Syndrome, Intellectual Disability, etc., should be considered for enrollment in Project Lifesaver.
- Clients must have the informed consent of their legal guardian and/or caregiver
- Caregivers/legal guardians must comply with their obligations and responsibilities in testing the transmitter on a daily basis making certain the battery is operational
- Caregivers/legal guardians must understand and agree that the locating technology used in the Project Lifesaver program is not intended as a substitute for responsible childcare or caregiver practices.
- The client is under constant supervision and monitoring by a responsible person: o to prevent or reduce the risk of wandering
- to ensure immediate reporting if the client is missing.

Clients, legal guardians and/or caregivers agree to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office and the County of Suffolk, their directors, officers, deputies, employees, agents, advisors and members from and against all losses, liabilities, costs, damages, and expenses which may be sustained by an indemnified party arising from a negligent act or omission of the client, legal guardians and/or caregivers with the respect to their voluntary participation in the Project Lifesaver program.



CLIENT EQUIPMENT

The following equipment is provided to the caregiver upon enrollment into the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver program:

- 1 Transmitter (available in white, blue, red, green and yellow)
- 6 Vinyl Straps (available in white, blue, and red)
- 6 Batteries
- 1 Battery Tester

EQUIPMENT PURCHASE

The purchase of the One-Year Kit (1 Transmitter, 1 Battery Tester, 6 batteries, and 6 vinyl straps) costs approximately \$325.00 plus shipping and handling charges. The purchase of the equipment is coordinated through the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office once the client's application is approved.

MAINTENANCE

The wristband must be firmly fastened around the client's wrist or ankle and not removed. If removed, the client's location cannot be determined. The transmitter's battery must be checked daily by a caregiver using the provided battery tester to ensure that the transmitter is emitting a signal. Batteries and wristbands can be requested through the Sheriff's Office at (631) 852-3003, or by email: lifesaver@suffolkcounty.ny.gov. Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver personnel will demonstrate and explain proper wristband and transmitter maintenance to caregivers upon initial client enrollment.

PROJECT LIFESAVER ENDORSEMENTS

- Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center
- National Aging In Place Council-Long Island Chapter
- Nassau/Suffolk Autism Society of America
- New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services Missing Persons Clearinghouse The National Sheriffs Association

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long does it take to enroll in Project Lifesaver?

Applications can be requested by calling (631) 852-3003 or via email at: lifesaver@suffolkcountyny.gov. After an application is received, a Deputy or Officer from the Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Bureau will then meet with the potential client/caregiver /legal guardian making certain that the residence is safe for the potential client and to assist with the necessary paperwork. Once you have the necessary equipment (estimated equipment shipping time is 1-2 weeks from Project Lifesaver International), the program starts immediately.

My loved one currently does not have a caregiver. Can I still enroll them in Project Lifesaver?

No, the Project Lifesaver program requires a Custodial Caregiver to check the transmitter's battery each day as well as notify the Sheriff's Office Communications Bureau in the event that a client has wandered and cannot be located.

What happens if a client wanders?

Caregivers must notify the Suffolk County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Emergency Response Line by calling (631) 852-2791 and dial 911.

Is the transmitter waterproof?

Yes, clients can shower and swim while wearing the transmitter.

Is the client's Project Lifesaver equipment covered by insurance as a medical necessity?

Check with your insurance company. If necessary, the Sheriff's Office will provide a "Letter of Medical Necessity" to the insurance company indicating that the client is enrolled in the Project Lifesaver program.

What happens if the equipment malfunctions or the transmitter is lost?

Call the Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver Emergency Response Line immediately.

Are there other Project Lifesaver programs?

Project Lifesaver began in the Chesapeake County Sheriff's Office in 1999. As of November 2017, Project Lifesaver is now in over 1,400 law enforcement agencies across North America. Currently, Suffolk County Sheriff Errol D. Toulon, Jr. serves as Project Lifesaver International's "New York State Coordinator". Project Lifesaver International's State Coordinators are responsible for training and certifying any law enforcement agency that wishes to launch a Project Lifesaver program for their jurisdiction.

Is there a guarantee that a person wearing a Project Lifesaver transmitter will be located?

Client searches involve different variables and incidents are often unpredictable. Project Lifesaver International reports over 3,300 successful search and rescues internationally since 1999. The Suffolk County Sheriff's Office feels Project Lifesaver equipment and established procedures increases the likelihood of "Bringing Your Loved Ones Home" safely.

For more information, please visit the Project Lifesaver page on our website at: www.suffolksheriff.com .