Good Day Members,

As we find this to be a busy time of the year, our classes are winding down, final testing is taking place and we are wrapping up our school year, there is much excitement and stress everyone is dealing with.

This of course is on top of the normal stresses placed upon our lives, as we all have bills to pay and family matters to tend to.

While I was sitting in traffic one day waiting for the light to change, I was greeted by the sound of a chirping bird perched on a tree branch above my car. It dawned on me that Spring has already sprung, and, I realized that some of life’s simple and enjoyable moments can pass by in the blink of an eye.

While Spring is quickly coming to a close and our Summer Break is approaching, we all need to take time to enjoy life’s precious moments, before they pass us by.

On behalf of myself and our Executive Board, we would like to wish you and your family a happy and healthy Summer Break.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

In solidarity,

Doug Andreotti
Know Your Contract

AESOP is the only point of entry for an absence.

Per the USA Contract, the rule still remains in effect that all leave requests **must be entered 3 days in advance of the requested day.** If that rule is not followed, documentation will be required and a reason has to be provided.

The USA contract permits one compelling personal emergency day, PC, per school year to be used in the event that 3 days notice cannot be provided. Such a day cannot be used before or after a holiday.

**SECTION IX - PERSONAL BUSINESS LEAVE**

Full-time salaried employees shall be granted Personal Business Leave without loss of pay during each employment year not to exceed five days. Personal Business Leave shall be prorated for part-time salaried employees.

Unused Personal Days shall be converted to sick days at the end of the school year.
Contract Negotiations Update

• We have Negotiation Sessions scheduled with the BOCES Board Representatives on June 6th and on June 10th.

• If progress is made, we will continue to work toward a tentative agreement. As of yet, one has not been forthcoming.

• The USA Negotiation Committee, which has 12 Members, has been working hard to address the important contract concerns voiced in the survey forms, which were distributed almost one year ago. The responses were compiled, discussed, and formed the basis for the proposal now under negotiation.

• The Membership will be updated to the status of the Negotiations before we leave at the end of the school year in June.

In Solidarity,
Al Cotoia
2016-2017 School Calendar

PUTNAM/NORTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES
2016-2017 Campus School Calendar

**SEPTEMBER**
- 9/1: Superintendent’s Conference Day
- 9/2: Schools Open
- 9/5: Labor Day
Total Days: 20 student
1 Supt. Conference Day

**OCTOBER**
- 10/3-4: Rosh Hashanah
- 10/10: Columbus Day
- 10/12: Yom Kippur
Total Days: 17 student

**NOVEMBER**
- 11/8: Superintendent’s Conference Day
- 11/11: Veteran’s Day
- 11/23-25: Thanksgiving Recess
Total Days: 17 student
1 Supt. Conference Day

**DECEMBER**
- 12/26-30: Holiday Recess
Total Days: 17 student

**JANUARY**
- 1/2: Holiday Recess
- 1/16: Martin Luther King Day
Total Days: 20 student

**FEBRUARY**
- 2/20: President’s Day
Total Days: 19 student

**MARCH**
Total Days: 23 student

**APRIL**
- 4/10-14: Spring Recess
- 4/17: Superintendent’s Conference Day
Total Days: 14 student
1 Supt. Conference Day

**MAY**
- 5/26-30: Memorial Day Recess
Total Days: 20 student

**JUNE**
- 6/23: Superintendent’s Conference Day
Total Days: 16 student
1 Supt. Conference Day

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**NOTE:** Weather makeup days to be taken in the following order: 5/26, 5/30, & 4/10

*Adopted 4/5/16*

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Please note the snow make up dates...

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183 Student
187 Superintendent’s Conference Day

United Staff Association of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES
Welfare Fund Important Information:

United Staff Association

Welfare Fund Benefits Summary

Members of the United Staff Association are eligible for Welfare Fund benefits at no cost. Limited benefits are available to your spouse, domestic partner, and eligible dependents. Select legal fund benefits are available to parents and parent-in-laws. If you work over 15 hours per week, you are eligible for full benefits. If you work 15 hours or less per week, you are eligible for half of the self-insured benefits and are not covered for life and long term disability insurance. All members are eligible for Legal Services benefit.

**DENTAL BENEFIT**: (member only): $3000 maximal benefit per calendar year
  **preauthorization is required for expenses greater than $600**
  **Family Dental Coverage is offered for an annual premium of $950/year with restrictions on enrollment and utilization of benefits if you do not enroll for Family Dental upon hire or within 60 days of a status change**

**SPOUSAL/Domestic Partner DENTAL BENEFIT**: Limited to routine cleanings, office visits and x-rays up to $200 maximal per calendar year

**OPTICAL BENEFIT**: $450 for member per calendar year
  $300 for dependents (spouse, eligible children) per calendar year

**VARIABLE BENEFIT**: $600.00 maximum per family per calendar year to assist in certain out-of-pocket expenses. Submission of this benefit is allowed only when the amount is $25.00 or more.

This is a supplemental benefit and therefore items or procedures not covered under the primary plan are not covered by this benefit. This benefit can only be used to supplement the Dental and Optical benefits covered by the Fund.

Claim forms can be obtained via the secured website – www.dhcook.com, in the main office of your building, from building representatives, or by calling (914) 250-0700

**LIFE INSURANCE**: Benefit is 100% of your salary rounded to the next higher $1,000 with minimum coverage of $5,000 and maximum coverage of $150,000. First Unum Life Insurance Company, 99 Park Avenue, 6th floor, New York, NY 10016. To update or review your beneficiaries contact the FUND Office at (914) 250-0700 or email at support@dhcook.com.

**LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE**: Maximum per week (60% of salary). First Unum Life Insurance Company.

**LEGAL SERVICES BENEFIT** includes representation in civil matters as well as general legal matters. Benefits include but are not limited to legal defense, matrimonial proceedings, adoption, personal bankruptcy, change of name, homeowner’s rights (real estate transactions), general consultation, document review, will, living will, health care proxy, power of attorney, planning for elderly, probate and estate administration, personal injury, arraignment assistance via telephone, consumer protection, identify theft protection, estate planning, and prenuptial agreements.

Certain legal service benefits are also extended to parents and/or parent-in-laws of covered members.

Consultations and select legal services are at no cost with very low fees for other covered benefits. The attorneys are available for consultation on the first Monday of each month during the school year and by appointment during the summer months.

Call (914) 997-1576 to schedule an appointment. Legal fund website: www.teacherslegalfund.com

Refer to your USA Welfare Fund Benefit Booklet for more specific information.

Actively employed members may decline coverage of Welfare Fund Benefits (dental and optical) for themselves and/or any enrolled dependents at any time by completing a Declaration of Coverage Form, which can be obtained by writing to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund at P.O. Box 403, Amawalk, NY 10501

01/01/2016
United Staff Association
Welfare Fund Benefits Summary
For Retirees

Upon retirement, retirees can elect to continue Welfare Fund benefits as noted below for a monthly premium of $45.00 (individual dental coverage) $146.00 (family dental coverage) and/or legal services benefits for an annual premium $90.00. Premiums are subject to change by the Trustees of the Fund. You must maintain your membership in the United Staff Association, Local 3072 to continue Welfare Fund Benefits in retirement.

**DENTAL BENEFIT:** (member only unless you opt for Family Dental) $3000 maximal benefit per calendar year

**SPOUSAL/Domestic Partner DENTAL BENEFIT:** Limited to routine cleanings, office visits and x-rays up to $200 maximal per calendar year

**OPTICAL BENEFIT:** $450 for member per calendar year

$300 for dependents (spouse, eligible children) per calendar year

**VARIABLE BENEFIT:** $600.00 maximum per family per calendar year to assist in certain out-of-pocket expenses. Submission of this benefit is allowed only when the amount is $25.00 or more.

This is a supplemental benefit and therefore items or procedures not covered under the primary plan are not covered by this benefit. This benefit can only be used to supplement the Dental and Optical benefits covered by the Fund.

Claim forms can be obtained via the secured website – www.dhcook.com, by contacting the retiree liaison for the Fund (see below) or by calling (914) 250-0700

**LEGAL SERVICES BENEFIT** includes representation in civil matters as well as general legal matters. Benefits include but are not limited to legal defense, matrimonial proceedings, adoption, personal bankruptcy, change of name, homeowner’s rights (real estate transactions), general consultation, document review, will, living will, health care proxy, power of attorney, planning for elderly, probate and estate administration, personal injury, arraignment assistance via telephone, consumer protection, identify theft protection, estate planning, and prenuptial agreements.

Certain legal service benefits are also extended to parents and/or parent-in-laws of covered members. Consultations and select legal services are at no cost with very low fees for other covered benefits. The attorneys are available for consultation on the first Monday of each month during the school year and by appointment during the summer months.

Call (914) 997-1576 to schedule an appointment. Legal fund website: www.teacherslegalfund.com

Refer to your USA Welfare Fund Benefit Booklet for more specific information.

The Retiree Liaison for WELFARE FUND questions/concerns is Janine deGrouchy-Hraska.

Janine is available by phone or email: (845) 735-4683; pnwbocswelfarefund@gmail.com.

You have the right to opt out of coverage for these benefits by writing to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund at P.O. Box 403, Amawalk, NY 10501.
Reminder to all Members of the United Staff Association Welfare Fund

Please do not fax your dental, optical, or variable claims to our Fund Administrator. Faxing claims will significantly delay your claim processing. Please inform your Providers.

Your Dental Provider has the option to submit claims via the online system which will expedite your dental claims. This will also allow your Dental Provider to check your eligibility and track claims. The Providers can simply create a log in from the website but they will need to call Daniel Cook, the Fund Administrator, for a Provider number at (914) 250-0700. This is a one-time set up.

The Trustees of the Welfare Fund are available as a resource and can be reached at their BOCES email: Dawn Galvin, Nancy Finsmith, Jenn Guiffre, Doreen Trani, Maria Pontbriand, and Doug Andreotti.
Planning to Retire in The Next Few Years?

NYSTRS PREP
(Pension & Retirement Education Program) Seminars
Submitted by Al Cotoia

NYSTRS PREP Seminars (Pension & Retirement Education Program) dates for the Summer are below.

The Seminars are available for all Members not just those planning for Retirement in the next few years.

The Seminars require preregistration, which can be made NYSTRS.org web site or by calling 800-348-7298 ext. 6180. When calling you must provide your Employee ID # or Social Security #, email address, and home phone number. The Seminars begin with check in at 8:00 A.M. will end at 3:30 P.M. One does not have to stay for the full Seminar. The Member may bring a spouse/companion but must register them also with the same info.

Albany
Wednesday, July 20 and Thursday, August 18
NYSTRS Headquarters
10 Corporate Woods Drive
Albany NY 12211

Fishkill
Thursday, August 11
Ramada
542 Route 9
Fishkill, NY 12524

Middletown
Tuesday, July 19
Holiday Inn
68 Crystal Run Road
Middletown, NY 10941

Mount Kisco
Thur. July 14,
Wed. Aug. 10
1 Holiday Inn Drive
Mount Kisco NY. 10549

There will be additional Seminars mid September and mid December 2016, and mid May 2017. As always, accessing the retirement web site or calling the toll free number will provide you with the most accurate information.
Congratulations on Retirement!

Please join us in Congratulating the following Faculty and Staff on their decision to Retire:

Career and Technical Education:
- Susie Collins
- Douglas Geer
- Gary Mancus
- Giovanni Petriccione

Special Education:
- Lynn Ammann
- Arlene Blake
- Antoinette Borst
- Frances Branca
- Kathleen Connolly
- Virginia DeLillo
- Kitty Desimone
- Joann Fenton-Vanasse
- Carol Glassman
- Collette Goodman
- William Horan
- Eileen McCutchen
- Dorothy Pascale
- Candice Percopo
- Susan Ratki
- Nancy Rosa
- Athena Swikata
- Debbie Schweitzer
- Lynn Uchetel

Congratulations on Retirement!
Retiree News and Information

Retiree News...

Linda Bonavist with her group of 10 including Adrienne and Howard Forbes, recently returned from a transatlantic cruise from Miami to Rome. Great time was had by all. They have made so many cruises. Everyone asks Linda. "How many days have you been at sea?"

Maryanne Alvord and Grace Snowden came over from Delray Beach FL to see Marion Connell and Gay Obrien. Carol Story was down to Naples for a visit as were Linda Everding and Bob. A good time was had by all. Grace made a great trip to India and we all await to see her photos. Maryanne visited with her son, Riley, and daughter, Annie, in California over Easter. Annie teaches special education in NYC and Riley teaches special education in Delemar CA.

Others winter visitors to FL included George O'Brien who saw Challis Thompson and Linda Frankenberry who visited Ginny Russell. Ginny is moving from FL to North Carolina to be near her daughter, Laura. Plans are in the works for a group of friends to go to York, PA to see Helen Barhyte this summer.

Karen Brown made the trip of a lifetime 3 months traveling to Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand Hong Kong and really had a wonderful time and shared great photos via Facebook. She did mention one of her favorite places- Bora Bora. Her daughter will be graduating soon in speech pathology MS from NYU. Karen's children worked many summer's at BOCES in the Extended School Year Program.

Colette Brown Goodman, a January retiree, has been enjoying a few trips south, Key West and South Beach for sun and surf and is celebrating with her daughter, Erin, a former teacher aide at Pines Bridge, who is completing her MS in Speech Pathology at George Washington this spring.

Jane Lewis in Tampa- she has many physical limitations, including vision issues, but she uses her scoter and sounds good. She enjoys visitors and phone calls. Jane has a wonderful memory and has kept in touch with so many former BOCES people.

Sue Levy and her husband were down from MN where they live now near some grandchildren after moving from an earlier relocation to ME.

Kathy and Craig Little were in from AZ to see Jane. Kathy celebrated her birthday in AZ with a visit from Ron and Susie Logan.

Artie and his son were down for a visit. Artie is very involved with the East Ramapo School District special education programs and is retired from Clarkstown. Artie has been on channel 12 in Westchester with the legal issues in that school district. His wife, Ellen, takes care of her grandchildren for their son. According to Jane "Ellen loves babies". From all reports Jane loves to hear from friends and is a great communicator.

Rita Wolfson send a note she is doing fine in FL and moved into smaller quarters and still enjoying retirement.

Irene Petrillo: I just returned from Santiago, Chile where my elder son and my daughter-in-law live. I will be a grandmother in November.
Retiree News...

Joanmarie Scakles’ daughter, Sam, graduated with her BA in Art with a MEd in Learning Design. She is starting her own consulting firm. Orangejuicediaries.com. Joanmarie’s friends, George and Joe, are in Naples and are grandparents.

Vito Rinaldo: Dianne and I just returned from Atlanta where we attended our son Gavin’s Master’s degree graduation from Georgia Tech. He will be working in the structural engineering field for Uzun + Case in their Atlanta office. Our daughter, Gillian, continues to teach at Pawling High School and is awaiting the test results of her first class in AP Biology. Her Science Research program is entering it’s 3rd year and continues to grow.

Flo Laicher has had some very big “wins” with her male Great Pyrenees Woody. Congratulations Flo; you have been so active in the dog world for many years. She now serves as a rep for the AKC from Westchester and has served on numerous committees for the Great Pyrenees clubs and local and national shows. Check Facebook for photos of her handsome dog.

Joan Link is also into the canine world with her very intelligent cute border terrier. She does obedience and therapy in the Dallas, Texas area.

Pete Smith: Arlene and I are going to Bermuda from June 24-28 to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We then have a one week river cruise from Spokane Washington to Portland Oregon starting July 2. We are linking that up with a sightseeing trip of the Canadian Rockies.

University in May and plans to continue studies in Clinical Psychology.

In Memoriam...

We send sympathy to the families and friends of:

Dick Donahue, social worker in special education
Marina Rea, teacher aide Pines Bridge
Al Gregory , business manager
Marion Connelly
Pat Carlo, Director Vocational Education in 1970s

Al Gregory’s granddaughter is married to Bob Tompkins son. Al’s widow, Marge Hack Gregory, was the school secretary at Fox Meadow in the ’60’s and at Walden in the 70’s

My Brother Vinny

Volunteer…If any active employee or retiree has some time to volunteer or some used furniture to donate, they might want to contact the non profit My Brother Vinny….founder Paula Mirtello founded this charity to help veterans relocate after homelessness. Her brother, Vinny, died several years ago after many years as a student at Pines Bridge. The whole family was involved with Vinny. Many Yorktown families knew them and Vinny min Clara was very active as a bus monitor on the Yorktown buses and as a clerk in the Yorktown A&P. It is local people helping local veterans.

www.mybrothervinny.org

We try to include as much as possible from the retirees. If you have news to share, please send it: Wynnie McCarthy, wam48@aol.com 36 Cheshire Lane Yorktown, NY 10598.
Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 6, 2016
3:00 P.M.
Pinesbridge Conference Room

Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, September 27, 2016
3:00 P.M.
Walden Adult Dining Room
A Bouquet from Us

In Our Thoughts ...
Liane Delgado’s loss of her Father.
Ron Taffner loss of his Sister.

A Speedy Recovery to...
Roseann Korsak
Doreen Trani
Olga Gonzalez

To schedule an appointment with the lawyers at Mirkin & Gordon, Members should call (914) 997-1576.

Send items for A Bouquet from Us to Karen Carey at kcarey@pnwboces.org

IMPORTANT:
Carolyn Schneider is the Grievance Chairperson.
Carolyn can be reached at cschneider@pnwboces.org or (914) 248-2764 (ext. 764).

We are on the Web!
Visit us at:http://ny.aft.org/pnwb/

Thanks to All:

Thank you to everyone who contributes to this Newsletter by submitting articles, important information, bouquets, or helping with the printing and/or distribution throughout the school year.

Please send Retiree News for the Newsletter to Wynnie McCarthy, wam48@aol.com or 36 Cheshire Lane Yorktown, NY 10598. We want to reach out to more Retirees.

Please send Newsletter worthy information to Meredith Markolovic (Tech) at mmarkolovic@pnwboces.org.