

USA INFORMATION

UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION OF PUTNAM/NORTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES
LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

Where has the year gone? It seems like just yesterday I was writing my welcome back address. I don't know about you but this year has been hectic- for the lack of a better word.

We have made some strides moving together as a unit. We had 83 members at our last union meeting, which is the most we have had in years; although a great start, we could do better. This newsletter and my e-mails are a good way to stay informed, but nothing compares to attending our union meetings, hearing and seeing first hand what's happening. Another initiative going forward is union t-shirts. Many of our districts already have t-shirts in place, and the statement it makes when everyone wears the same shirt on a conference day, open house or many other events we participate in for our school, really has a huge impact.

We heard Dr. Langlois, a couple weeks ago, speak about valuing our past and creating our future. I concur with this sentiment. I value our unions' past, and the people that have paved the way for us but understand that creating our future means changing the way we have done things in the past. He also spoke about seizing the opportunity. I have seized the opportunity and stepped up to help move our union forward as best I can. I am asking you to also seize the opportunity to help your union. I am sad to be losing Mary Ann Alvord as our grievance chairperson, and Fred Santoli will not finish his term due to his new obligations as an administrative intern. I am happy that others have seized the opportunity to fill these positions, and I am confident our union will continue to move forward. We need to think about how we can help each other and BOCES move forward. We are heading towards challenging times and need to face these challenges together.

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Next year brings with it big changes. The APPR, for one, although a work in progress, will bring changes to the current evaluation model. There are still many unanswered questions with this process, but one thing for sure is, due to NY State legislation, the APPR is changing. Another change will be our contract. As of now we are still working with administration to work out the details of a new contract that is fair and equitable for both sides.

In closing, I want to thank our executive board for all the support they have given me this year. I also want to thank our outstanding program representatives; you people are the front lines of the union and do your jobs very well. For that, we all thank you!

Also, all the members that stepped up to help out on committees. I know it consumes a lot of your time, and you may not hear it often enough, thank you as well.

Our teaching duties may end at the end of June, but our duties to ourselves as teachers should not! Stay informed! A well-educated union is a strong union!

Have a wonderful summer!

In Solidarity,

Larry Marino

*Upcoming
Executive Board
Meetings:*

June 5, 2012

Projects Building
3:00 P.M.

Union Representatives

PUTNAM/NORTHERN WESTCHESTER B.O.C.E.S.
YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NEW YORK 10598
(914) 962-9579

Executive Board:

President.....Larry Marino
1st Vice President.....Alfred Santoli
2nd Vice President.....Doug Andreotti
Secretary.....Jenn Guiffre
Treasurer.....Dan Gottfried
Membership Chairperson.....Debra Haggerty
Grievance Chairperson.....Mary Ann Alvord
Negotiations Chairperson.....Al Cotoia
Building Rep Chairperson.....Carolyn Schneider

Program Representatives:

Administrator	Representative
Jim Bellucci.....	Michael Tomaseski
Michael Sowul.....	Lynn Ammann
Steve Lowery.....	Marie Russo
Marla Gardner.....	Robert Angiello
Adam Vanderstuyf.....	Catherine Armisto
Judy Spaulding.....	Judy Gillet
Bob Keldershouse.....	Elisa Longo

*Upcoming
General Membership
Meetings:*

Stay tuned...

Look for an email in June for
announcement of next meeting!

United Staff Association Welfare Fund

c/o Daniel H. Cook Associates
253 West 35th Street, 12 Floor
New York, New York 10001

Chairperson: Dawn Wargula
Secretary: Nancy Finsmith
Treasurer: Janine deGrouchy-Hraska
Trustees: Cindy Flynn
Jenn Guiffre
Larry Marino
Doreen Trani
Consultant: Flo Laicher
Administrator: Daniel Cook Associates
(914) 250-0700
FAX (212) 714-1455
www.dhcook.com
Legal Fund: (914) 997-1576
www.teacherslegalfund.com





BOCES Virtual Suggestion Box:



As part of the new future of BOCES Taskforce initiative, we are encouraged and welcome to share our ideas and suggestions to improve our collective work by using the new virtual suggestion box!

To access it, we go to our BOCES website at www.pnwboces.org (click the employees tab and then click suggestion box)

Or go directly to: www.pnwboces.org/SuggestionBox/Default.aspx

Keep in mind that, although a great idea, this initiative is being administered on a BOCES server and anonymity may not be preserved.



KNOW YOUR CONTRACT...

SECTION IX - PERSONAL BUSINESS LEAVE

Personal business leave shall be granted upon application to and approval by the Director of Human Resources and Administrative Services. Except for emergencies, written application must be received in the Human Resources and Administrative Services Department at least three working days in advance of the day for which leave is requested.

Personal business leave shall not be accumulated from year to year nor shall it be used to extend vacation or holidays.

What this means:

Personal days, which are within the parameters of the language above, do not need to have supporting documentation, just a reason for the day. If the request for the leave is less than three working day notice, you may be asked for further documentation to have the day approved.

Any personal day, be it compelling or not, shall not be used before or after any scheduled vacation or holiday.

WELFARE FUND INFORMATION:

Updated Welfare Fund Benefit Booklets:

The Trustees of the USA Welfare Fund have completed an updated version of the Benefit Booklet, including recent benefit improvements. You should have received your copy at your home address from our Fund Administrator, Daniel H. Cook. The Benefit Booklet is also available online at <http://ny.aft.org/pnwb>

As a reminder, you can access your Welfare Fund account information at www.dhcook.com to check claim status, obtain forms, etc.

The Trustees of the Welfare Fund are available as a resource and can be reached via their BOCES email.



NEGOTIATION NEWS...

The negotiation process is ongoing and will continue until we reach an agreement with the BOCES School Board.

We are all aware of what other districts are settling for in their contracts. Even though BOCES is an entity of its own, we have the same hot button topics that others have worked through like salaries and health cost. As of now, there is no agreement, but we will continue to work toward our common goal: a fair and equitable contract for our membership.

The officers and members of The United Staff Association would like to congratulate the following on their retirement:

Mary Ann Alvord

Marie Carlucci

Christine Konczewski

Richard O'Keefe

Perin G. Schneider

Judith Trongone

Andrew Barresi

Christina Egan

Victor Messick

Ellen Saltzman

Susan Shafer

Janet Uhl

Kathleen Batchelor

John Hallinan

Antoinette Noto

Annmarie Santulli


Irene Snow

Mary Vinci



As you begin another exciting chapter of your lives know that you will be missed and know that our very best thoughts and wishes go with you. We have valued your commitment, professionalism, wisdom, creativity, smiles, and friendship. Wherever retirement takes you, may it bring greater personal fulfillment than you ever thought possible.





*Please Join Us
In Honoring Our Retirees*

MARY ANN ALVORD	RICHARD O'KEEFE
KATHLEEN BACHELOR	ELLEN SALTZMAN
MARIE CARLUCCI	ANNEMARIE SANTULLI
CHRISTINA EGAN	PERIN SCHNEIDER
JOHN HALLINAN	IRENE SNOW
CHRISTINE KONCZEWSKI	SUSAN SHAFER
ANTOINETTE NOTO	JUDITH TRONGONE
	MARY VINCI

PLEASE JOIN US
IN HONORING OUR
UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION RETIREES

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 2012
6:00 PM - 11:00 PM

COLONIAL TERRACE
119 OREGON RD
CORTLANDT MANOR, NY

PLEASE R.S.V.P. BY MAY 25, 2012

COST IS \$75. PER PERSON
INCLUDES DINNER, D.J. AND GIFT
CASH BAR

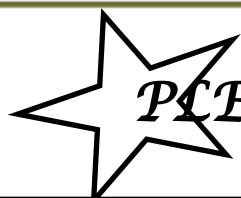
M. _____ WILL ATTEND
GIFT ONLY \$ _____ WILL NOT ATTEND

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CASH
SENT TO EITHER:
LYNN AMMANN (WALDEN)
KITTY DESIMONE (PINES BRIDGE)

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://ny.aft.org/pnwb/>



PLEASE HELP US BY SENDING NEWS!

Thanks to All...

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

Please send retiree news for the newsletter to Wynn McCarty wam48@aol.com or 36 Cheshire Lane, Yorktown, NY 10598. We want to reach out to more retirees.

Please send any information that you deem is newsletter worthy to Meredith Markolovic (Tech) at mmarkolovic@pnwboces.org or (914)248-3815.



A Bouquet from Us:

In Memoriam:

Deceased retirees:

Norbert J. Knopp: 91, Yorktown Heights, died 12-20-2011. Norbert taught in Special Education at Fox Meadow in the '60's and Walden and Pines Bridge before his retirement at age 70.

Lucille Dooley: Lucille worked as a teachers' aide at the Pines Bridge School at the PNW BOCES in Yorktown Heights retiring in 1996.

Our Sympathy:

Michelle Gonzalez who lost her mother.

Nancy Rose who lost her mother.

Congratulations:

Mary Simonelli on the birth of her 2nd granddaughter.

USA PHONE NUMBER: (914) 962-9579



To schedule an appointment with the lawyer, members should call (914) 997-1576.

IMPORTANT...

Mary Ann Alvord is the Grievance Chairperson. She can be reached at extension 764, or from the outside at (914) 248-2764.

Send items for *A Bouquet from Us* to Elizabeth Bowler at ebowler@pnwboces.org