

# U S A INFORMATION

LOCAL 15 - 175 NYSUT; LOCAL 3072 AFT

JUNE 2010

**Next Executive Board Meeting:**  
**June 1, 2010**  
**3:15 p.m.**  
 PBS Conference Room

**Next General Membership Meeting:**  
**September 14, 2010**  
**3:15 p.m.**  
 Adult Dining Room

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## *From the Desk of the President*

I am sure many of you have heard about the Race To The Top (RTTT). This is federal money that all of the states are competing for. In the first go round only two states were awarded the funding. New York State has just reapplied again. I am happy to say that the USA Executive Board, with encouragement from NYSUT, unanimously voted to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) this time around. If New York wins the finding, Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES will be eligible for some of the funds.

Next year will be bringing some new things to our BOCES. First and foremost, you the members, will be voting in new members to the Executive Board and Program Representatives. It is so very important that you have a representative on the Board. Our contract is up in two years and negotiations will be beginning with a new president and negotiations chairperson. These people will need your help to represent everyone. Get involved in one way or another. On September 14,

2010, we will have a General Membership meeting at 3:15 pm in the adult dining room. The purpose of this meeting is to begin the election process. There should be CTE and Special Ed. representatives on the Board. Don't miss out on an opportunity to be represented. Volunteers are needed for the Elections Committee. For details about the obligations and time commitment for this committee please e-mail Debbie Ashley at [DAshley@pnwboces.org](mailto:DAshley@pnwboces.org). Debbie will be heading this committee but she cannot do it alone. This is great way to serve your union.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Vito Rinaldo for being our negotiation chairperson during my presidency. Vito served our union for many years. He started by being a building rep, then moved on to 1st Vice President and then President followed by many years as negotiations chairperson.

Vito, thank you for all you have done for this union. We all wish you a happy and healthy retirement. It is well deserved.

The next big new issue that our union will be facing next year is the new State Education Department regulations

concerning evaluation of teachers. Beginning in September 2011, every teacher will have to show "student growth" as part of their evaluation. We have already begun looking at the new APPR regulations. A committee made up of union members and administration will be going through the law and how it will apply to us. Be assured that the union will keep you updated with this committee's progress.

As you can see, big changes are in the future: a new president, a new negotiations chairperson, new state regulations, and the RTTT.

Be involved and stay informed.

Have a great summer!!

*In Solidarity,*

*Irene Snow*  
 President

## News From Retirees

We welcome two new retirees this March **Marion Connelly** the nurse at Pines Bridge and Eileen Fahey a teacher aide at Pines Bridge.

We send our sympathies to the families of:

**Natt Barr**, she died in February in Carmel, Maine where she retired after teaching in BOCES special education for many years in local schools (learning disabled students).

**Lorraine Cotter's** husband died this fall in Ballston Spa, NY where they had relocated.

**Bob Trace**, a former custodian at Pines Bridge died this winter.

It was spur of the moment planning; but friends of **Bill Broadnax** gathered at *Shadow's*, (one of his favorite restaurants) to celebrate his 75th birthday. Bill enjoyed the noon gathering and told tales of his winter travels to Hawaii and Mexico. Many friends were away on school break but they sent Bill lots of wishes and cards. Along with many others, it was good to see **Glenn and Allen Steiner** and **Holly Austin**.

**Doris Ryder** is doing well and living at the women's residence, Villa St. Francis in Peekskill. She recently joined BOCES friends at the Peekskill Brewery for lunch.

**Frank Sink** has relocated to Reston, Virginia near his nephew.

**Sandy Blackwell, Linda Conte** and **Wynnie McCarthy** attended the screening of the documentary "Before they Die" at the Croton library. It is the story of the 1921 race riots in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Olivia Hooker, a survivor herself, answered questions on the film. Many early retirees may have known Dr. Hooker, as she was a very good friend of deceased **USA** member **Merle Turner**. Merle Turner was a very early teacher in the Toddville program for TMR's in the early 70s, before the BOCES campus was built.

Pines Bridge Retirees RAGS (retired and going strong) welcomed a new retiree **Marion Connelly** in February at their luncheon at Charlie Browns. Marion spend March traveling south, April with family in Minnesota and has

three first communions in May.

In March the group went to the Terrace Club in Mahopac for Westchester Restaurant week and in April plans are for Villa Bella on Rt 6. **Roz Hurley** is setting up April's lunch...she just returned from seeing her new grandchild in Colorado.

Many of the Walden retirees attended the benefit for the Northern Westchester Woman's Resource Center in Mahopac held at Villa Barone. **Ronnie Kahn** is on the Board of Directors. The Center is located 935 Lake Blvd Mahopac, NY 10541. The center provides information resources, skills workshops and professional counseling to facilitate women in making informed choices and in working towards their potential. Programs and services are continually developed to meet community needs and to reflect the needs of women and their families in a changing social environment.

U S A I N F O R M A T I O N	
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Building Rep Chairperson.....	

## News From Retirees

**Beth Maley**, chair of the Putnam Chorale hopes some of the retirees will come and support the Spring Concert B Minor Mass with Orchestra, Friday, April 30th at 8 p.m. at the United Methodist Church- 300 Main St. Mt Kisco, NY or Sunday, May 2nd at 3 p.m. Temple Beth Elohim 31 Mt Elbo Rd. North Brewster, NY. For additional information call: 845-279-7265

**Carol Vales...**"We are doing good this year. Being retired is great... We are getting ready to go to France to see Marcel's cousin. They are planning a family reunion while we are there. We are also trying to learn how to speak French...Leaving on the 29th of May & coming back on June 24th. We are also going to visit London, Manchester and over to Lourdes. We just have to see how this volcano will effect our trip.

**Spring Retiree Luncheon Set:** The Spring Retiree Luncheon is set for June 8, at noon, at the Travelers Rest, on Rt. 100. All retirees are invited and encouraged to attend. The restaurant provides a great buffet luncheon at a cost of only \$35/person. Send your check made out to **NYSUT Retirees**, to Rosalind Mariani, 445 Broadway, 2K, Hastings, NY 10706. Any questions speak to Roz at 914-478-9305. The featured speaker will be **Alan Lubin**, recently retired NYSUT Executive VP and head of our legislative branch.

Please remember to send retiree information to **Wynnie McCarthy**: [Wam48@aol.com](mailto:Wam48@aol.com)

All the newsletters are posted on the **USA web site** along with very useful information from the Association and USA Welfare Fund. Check it for forms or information:

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

Many of the retirees communicate via Facebook, why not give it a try?

**NOTE: It is very important that retirees keep the district appraised of their correct addresses...insurance and drug cards, as well as Medicare reimbursements must be sent to your correct address.**

*Wynnie McCarthy*  
Retired Member, Actively Involved

## VOTE COPE Raised

# \$5,284.50

When we returned from Spring break we began our VOTE COPE campaign and today as we near the end of this school year we have collected \$5,284.50 in donations. VOTE-COPE (Voice Of Teachers in Education - Committee On Political Education) is NYSUT's non-partisan political action fund. It pools the voluntary contributions of members from across the state to make contributions to pro-education candidates and to support political action that aims to protect our incomes and careers, health and safety, retirement changes, and health care.

Our contributions will protect our own profession and the institution in which we work. As public employees, almost all conditions affecting our professional environment, working conditions and pension rights are determined by the actions of the New York State Legislature, the Governor, and the U.S. Congress. If we wish to have a positive influence on our professional future, we must take an active part in the political process.

We would like to thank all those who took part in the VOTE COPE campaign. Thank you to the building representatives for distributing the information and collecting the donations. We would also like to thank all those who made donations. We had 143 members do payroll deduction, 14 members sent in checks and a big thank you to our 27 retirees who mailed in their donations. Our donations will assist in making our voices heard, and at the same time make an investment in our future.

*Carolyn Schneider*  
VOTE-COPE Chairperson

**EXECUTIVE BOARD & GENERAL MEETING**

**DATES 2009-2010**

6/1 Executive Board Meeting



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

**IMPORTANT!**

Please Note:

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

**Legal Fund Calendar**

The dates for the legal services program are:

June 9

You need to call  
**(914) 997-1576**  
to set up an appointment.

**United Staff Association  
Welfare Fund**

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

**Chairperson:** Lola Smerdon

**Secretary:** Nancy Finsmith

**Treasurer:** Janine deGrouchy-Hraska

**Trustees:** Monika Biscoglio  
Jennifer Guiffre  
Steve Simpson  
Irene Snow

**Administrator:** Daniel Cook Associates  
253 West 35th Street, 12th Floor  
New York, New York 10001  
(914) 250-0700  
(212) 505-5050  
1-800-DHCOOK1  
(1-800-342-6651)  
FAX # (212) 714-1454

**Legal Fund:** (914) 997-1576

**USA PHONE NUMBER: (914) 962-9579**

**Keep this page for future reference!!**

# NYSUT BOCES

## Leadership Conference

I had the privilege of attending the annual NYSUT BOCES Leadership Conference in Albany this fall. As usual, the conference provided a wide variety of particularly relevant workshops. I chose to participate in the workshop on contracts and negotiation and was well rewarded. The workshop provided a detailed overview of the direction that negotiations and contracts are headed in both our region and other areas of NYS, and included a thorough review of the issues we may face as we enter negotiations when our current contract expires.

One of the most interesting things that I learned was that in the upstate area, the increase received when you move to the next step in the salary scale is included when salary increase percentages are negotiated. So for example, if a local negotiates a 3% raise, the increase is not the step plus 3%. The step is included, so a 3% increase may only be a 1% increase plus whatever the step increase is. This accounts for the lower salaries in those areas.

The workshop also dealt extensively with the various ways in which health insurance costs are being negotiated. Some locals have a graduated system, where everyone pays based on their salary, rather than each employee paying the same percentage. So for example, if you are on step 1 you may pay 5% of your health insurance premium, but if you are on Step 10 you might pay 15%.

Another issue of note was how different contracts are structured in terms of the health insurance payments for retirees. The presenter thought our contract had excellent language in this regard, and shared it with the other locals that were represented. We have our

retirees pay a flat amount that does not change, which everyone agreed was a good way to go because retirees are on a fixed income.

The workshop was well worth attending for both the perspective it provided on the major issues in recent negotiations, and the varied ways in which different locals have addressed those issues.

*Dan Gottfried*  
Treasurer, United Staff Association of P/NW BOCES

## From the Editor

I have attended a number of the NYSUT BOCES Leadership Conferences over the past several years. Each time is a treat. I get to go to some very informative and genuinely interesting workshops which are very relative to current issues in our classrooms. The Special Education Department meeting is always a hot bed of information on new and sometimes old mandates that come down from State Ed.

One topic often discussed is the NYS Alternate Assessment. It is a topic that is widely discussed on the floor, during breaks and meals among participants. It gives you an opportunity to touch base with fellow teachers from around the state who share in your concerns. You are not alone. It is also a great forum to exchange information and network with others. The nicest part is you get to do this away from your workplace and home, in the relaxing atmosphere of a nice hotel, not far from home, in the good company of other members of our union. There's no shortage of nice folks to share a meal or kick back with, or you can retreat to the comfort of your room and catch up on your reading.

There is no cost to you to attend a conference. The union will reimburse you, with just one little string attached - YOU HAVE TO SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR THE NEWSLETTER!

*Athena Swikata*  
Editor, USA InformationS



*Honoring Our Members That Are Retiring*

*Eileen Bogdanoff*

*Marion Connelly*

*Rita De Maria*

*Eileen Fahy*

*Linda Ferrieri*

*Linda Fleckenstein*

*David Hannan*

*Laurie Lake-Levene*

*Carmen Levesque*

*Vito Rinaldo*

*Janet Stewart*

*Helen Vail*

*Jerada Wehnes*

*31st Annual NYSUT  
School-Related  
Professionals Leadership  
Conference*

*Albany, NY October 2-4, 2009*

**Using Movement in the Classroom**

Teacher aides and assistants must address a variety of academic and social needs in the classroom, along with motivating students to enjoy the subject matter. Movement is an effective resource that can be used to benefit students both in the classroom and in small group settings. In this workshop the participants learned and practiced simple movement-based strategies that can be introduced to students to increase their focus and concentration, avoid frustration, and reduce stress. Simple movement-based strategies that were introduced at the workshop included breathing exercises, stretching, and beginner yoga movements.

In my classroom, we implemented 'using movement' to increase the student's attention, energy and positive affect. The movement exercises we have incorporated in our class include the students stretching their bodies and walking around the school track four times a day. We also implement 15 minute morning exercises which include breathing, beginner yoga poses and cal esthetic exercises.

*Elizabeth Gilmore  
Teaching Assistant  
Pierre Van Cort Middle School*

*The 37th Annual  
Conference for BOCES  
Leadership*

*Albany, NY October 16-17, 2009*

The theme of this conference was 'Enhancing Achievement-Building Futures'. The name of the conference I took was Managing Student Behavior. This workshop provided effective strategies for creating an environment in which students learn to make appropriate choices. The Technique was Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies. PBIS is a research based framework for implementing behavioral expectations and reinforcements in order to improve student academic achievement.

**The PBIS system is:**

- Clearly define and communicated expectations
- Explicit instruction for students in the expectations for all settings
- A recognition/acknowledgement model for students that meet expectations
- Immediate feedback and correction for inappropriate behavior

**Expectations of all Students:**

Engaged	Responsible	Respectful
Participate	Follow directions	Respect others & space
Pay attention	Follow safety rules	Use polite greetings
Do your Best	Do your work	Clean up after yourself

When you observe students demonstrating any of these expectations you may recognize them by acknowledging their positive behavior. For positive behavior, my class distributes chips that are redeemed for a prize. I have utilized these PBIS practices in my classroom, and they have proven to be effective.

*Elizabeth Gilmore  
Teaching Assistant*

## *A Bouquet from Us*

### *Get Well Wishes to:*

*Robert Taps, on recovery from surgery.*

*Helen Vail, on recovery from  
surgery*

*Vito Rinaldo, on recovery from  
surgery*

### *Our Sympathies to:*

*Colette Goodman, for the loss of her sister*

*Dan Gottfried, for the loss of his mother*

*Apologies to Dan - This appeared incorrectly in an earlier issue*

Send items for *A Bouquet from Us* to Elizabeth Bowler at:  
[ebowler@pnwboces.org](mailto:ebowler@pnwboces.org)