

U S A INFORMATION

LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT; LOCAL 3072 AFT

OCTOBER 2009

Next Executive Board Meeting:
November 3, 2009
3:15 p.m.
PBS Conference Room

Dec. Executive Board Meeting:
December 1, 2009
3:15 p.m.
PBS Conference Room

Next General Membership Meeting:
January 12, 2010
3:15 p.m.
Adult Dining Room

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From the Desk of the President

What does the United Staff Association of the Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES do for you?

We have many members who may wonder what we do as a union. Not only do we negotiate and enforce the contract, we also administer and maintain the Welfare Fund benefits. The Executive Board and the Welfare Fund Board of Trustees meet on a monthly basis to conduct business. General meetings and this newsletter are also a part of our responsibilities. We attend NYSUT and AFT conferences and workshops. We encourage, you the member, to also attend these very informative meetings. Our members also get involved by sitting on committees

that require union representation. We, as many of you know, are always available to hear your concerns and resolve them to the best of our ability. In fact, we meet at least once a month (according to our Contract) with the administration to discuss issues before they become problems.

As you can see, the union spends many untold hours on behalf of our members. We do so because we believe in our union.

The union can negotiate, grieve, educate, and advocate for our members, but it can only be strong if we have an informed active membership. Take a few minutes to read your contract. It depends upon you, the individual member, to know

and receive the rights and benefits you are entitled to.

Here is a list of Program Representatives who give of their time to assist members:

Program Representatives

Supervisor	
Bellucci	Rick O'Keefe
Sowul	Darci Esposito
Lowery	Doug Andreotti
Hardesty	Robert Angiello
Kelderhouse	Elisa Longo
Seiverding	Michael Tomaseski
Spaulding	Judy Gillet

News From Retirees

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of:

Ed McCarthy...he had been ill for seven weeks before he died in July.

Ginny Russell... her husband Joe died in September. Former Tech supervisor, **Ralph Esposito**, died very unexpectedly on a trip to visit family in Colorado in July.

Wynnie McCarthy..."My life has changed also and amidst the clearing out and cleaning up of Ed's "treasures" I am finding renewed strength and the goodness of so many people, family and friends. Some I really did not know that well, but were friends of Ed's and just knew of me and little Miss Tree (my cavalier King Charles spaniel). A special thanks to all the BOCES friends, both active and retired, who prayed and supported us during Ed's illness and the many weeks following his death. I only hope that I can be as supportive and caring to others in the future."

"The clothing is all sorted, washed and sent to Graymoor for the men's shelter in Garrison, NY. The books are being sorted, some for the Shrub Oak and Mahopac libraries and the religious studies books to a priest friend in India. Ed had a MA in religious studies along with Special Education and had a fellowship to Yale 15 years ago to study his topic - Early Christianity. The glasses went to Guiding Eyes, the sneakers to a Nike recycling program and the hearing aides to a children's foundation - Help the Children Hear, Box 98 Caldwell, NJ 07006."

"This has kept me very busy. Another thank you to all who donated to the track at Pines Bridge in Ed's memory; he taught in the Pines Bridge program for 24 years at BOCES and was retired 17 years."

Jerry and Ida Blotcky... "We've been away on several trips in a row and have lost track of things a bit. We just got back from visiting our kids and grand kids in Rochester, NY. It was a marvelous trip. Cassidy just turned 16 (imagine!) and Maya is now 4 and a pure delight. We spent 3 weeks in Thailand and the trip was spectacular. We traveled with OAT (Overseas Adventure Travel). They put together a wonderful tour, full of adventure and exotic excitement. Our group was small,

only 13 of us, and we got to know each other very well. We made some good friends during our trip. We also went into Burma (Myanmar) and Laos and visited some of the hill tribes in northern Thailand. All in all, it was a great adventure."

Adrienne Forbes..."After retiring in 2006, my husband Howard and I took a wonderful trip around the world where we visited Northern India, spent 2 weeks in Myanmar (Burma), enjoyed Thailand where our son Eric lives, and swam with the giant clams in the Great Barrier Reef of Australia, as well as touring several weeks in New Zealand..."We spent time visiting our friends in Holland, and taking a cruise through the Panama Canal. Life had been a time of great joy for us, as we had only dreamed of doing these wonderful things."

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USA INFORMATION

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 UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION
 of
 PUTNAM/NORTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES
 LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT; LOCAL 3072 AFT
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News From Retirees

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"This past February, Howard was operated for an abdominal aneurysm, and due to a number of factors, became a paraplegic – paralyzed from the waist down. He spent until June 3rd in Mt. Sinai Spinal Injury rehabilitation center and recently came home. Needless to say, this health issue is an adventure in itself, and we are adjusting to the journey as we go along. Not quite as much fun as the traveling, but we are figuring it out as we go along."

"We enabled our home to accommodate his wheelchair and have some help on the scene to assist. We anticipate that we will be traveling again; just a little differently."

Carol Lockwood..."I am planning on going back to Sarasota in the middle of October for the winter, and then off for 2 weeks in Cancun and Playa." Life goes by so quickly and you have to plan to do things now and not wait until the future. Life is difficult to plan. It was Carol who told of **Ralph Esposito's** passing; some of the retired BOCES nurses were planning an August reunion with him when word spread of his passing.

Barbara Burnap...We all hope Barbara is doing well after her hip replacement in the Hospital for Special Surgery in late September. We hear she had a wonderful view of the East River from her room. Word has it that she is progressing well and is so lucky to have her husband Art retired from Mahopac, home to help her out. What a way for both of them to spend their first month of retirement..

John Keck had a wonderful international conference in Mt Kisco for his retreat program, Handicapped Encounter Christ this past summer.

Pete Smith ..."Arlene and I took a trip to Seattle and Alaska during mid- August. One of our highlights was having lunch with **George** and **Gina McCabe** in Seattle. We still are enjoying our life in "The Villages" in FL.

Linda Bonavist had a wonderful cruise on the Mediterranean this summer. She wrote a wonderful travel log via email on the trip...she will send it to her if you ask her... the descriptions about the sites and foods are wonderful.

"My brother, Ralph, recently produced an album. His teenage neighbor, Killian, was dying of cancer. Ralph assembled his musical friends and with Killian on uke- (which my brother taught him) and recorded it. In a way it kept Killian alive as he had a focus and a purpose. I had met him and his family several times. Good people."

Doris Ryder is doing well; we had lunch. She is living at the Villa St. Francis next to the Peekskill train station. This is a beautiful residence for independent women right on the Hudson River. Doris told us she has nine great grandchildren from 9 months to 13 years old. Many of the BOCES retirees would remember her son Paul, a Pines Bridge graduate. He is working at the Food Emporium in Yorktown and takes the bus from his apartment in Mt Kisco every day.

Bud Bitter..."It is always good to hear from the BOCES folks; it was a great 10 years of my life with Voc Tech and Don Banford as my supervisor. I am 91 now and continue to live with my wife Marion in Punta Gorda, FL. It has been rated one of the nicest places to live in the US and we think so. Two of our children live here and two of our grandchildren have finished at Florida State University and another is at Voc Tech in Fort Meyers. We presently own a 30 foot sloop sailboat and we love sailing."

George McCabe..."Gina and I had a wonderful visit with the Smiths. Pete and Arlene were heading to Alaska so it was a quick visit. We took the ferry over to Seattle and met at Pike's Market for lunch. The best part was Pete picked up the tab for lunch."

"Since moving to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State and the Oregon Coast we have been able to spend lots of time with our two beautiful grandchildren. They keep us busy and understanding what life is all about day by day."

"I am still wood carving still unchallenged as "the world's slowest carver". Gina sometimes paints one which is a vast improvement. (We do not have email at this time) We enjoy reading about our friends and hope more folks will send Wynnie news at wam48@aol.com.

Judith Gillespie has been north this summer and by now she must be headed west to see her new grandchild in Ohio on her way back to Boca Raton for the winter. Her son, Evan is still flying and now lives in Ohio. We extend our sympathy to Judith; her Mom died this spring.

News From Retirees

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Last summer **Judith** and **Evie Gold** had a great reunion at Evie's in Clifton Park NY. Judith and Bruce were heading north to a wedding and stopped for a visit "dogs and all".

Wynnie McCarthy
News From Retirees

A Note from the Welfare Fund Chair...

Those members who have chosen to continue with Catastrophic insurance. If members have any questions, they can contact **Melanie Hiller** at mbh@thepreferredgroup.com or call her at 518-641-0321. There are only a handful of members who have chosen to continue this benefit and they may use the variable to be reimbursed for this.

Important For All Retirees

Retirees (and Spouses) Must Enroll in Medicare

OUR BOCES Health plan generally requires retirees, and their spouses, who are eligible for Medicare to enroll in Parts A and B as soon as possible. This includes retirees, and their spouses, who are eligible for Medicare on the basis of Social Security Disability, even if under age 65. Members do not need to enroll in Part D.

Failure to enroll in Parts A and B may result in lack of coverage by either Medicare or the Consortium's Health Plan, or both. Additionally, it may result in higher Medicare premiums when you finally do enroll.

Retirees who are covered under a spouse who is actively employed elsewhere may still be required to enroll in Medicare. This may be true even if the other employer's plan or Medicare tells you that you need not enroll in Medicare. If you have questions, please contact the Office of Risk Management at 914-248-2456 before declining Medicare.

A New Feature

As promised in June, we are starting our new feature...

Ask the Board

Q: What is Family Sick Leave? How many days do I get?

A: An employee may use up to five days per year of his or her sick leave for serious illness in the immediate family which requires the employee's presence. For this purpose, "immediate family" means:

- Spouse
- Child
- Parents
- Others living in the employee's home

If you have a question you can email your question to:

Larry Marino at lmarino@pnwboces.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD & GENERAL MEETING

DATES 2009-2010

10/6	Executive Board Meeting
10/13	General Membership Meeting
11/3	Executive Board Meeting
12/1	Executive Board Meeting
1/5/10	Executive Board Meeting
1/12	General Membership Meeting
2/2	Executive Board Meeting
3/2	Executive Board Meeting
4/6	Executive Board Meeting
5/4	Executive Board Meeting
5/11	General Membership Meeting
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:

October 21, 2009

November 9

December 9

January 13, 2010

February 10

March 10

April 14

May 12

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
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New York, New York 10001**

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Keep this page for future reference!!

From the Desk of the President

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I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Monika Biscoglio for all of the time she has so graciously given to the union. Monika served as a program representative and trustee of the Welfare Fund. For the last several years she was the chairperson of the Welfare Fund. Even in retirement she continues to serve our union by continuing on the Welfare Fund as a trustee. Thank you Monika.

In solidarity,
Irene Snow

Annual Report

Westchester Putnam

Teachers Legal Services

Fund

Prepaid legal services are available to all active members of the USA bargaining unit and to those retirees who elected to continue the benefit at the time of their retirement. A number of additions and improvements have been made to the benefits provided under this plan. These include the extension of the real estate benefit for a primary residence to the ten northern counties in New Jersey and all of the state of Connecticut as well as a new prenuptial agreement benefit. A new website has been created for the WPTLSF and the plan booklet, updates and changes to benefits and general articles of interest are available on the site. Please go to www.teacherslegalfund.com. The site is easy to navigate and is updated on a regular basis. A lawyer comes to the BOCES campus monthly during the school year to meet with our members and arrangements can be made for appointments at other times. Appointments can be made by calling 914-997-1576.

The trustees of the WPTLSF met on May 20, 2009. At that meeting the panel law firm gave a report on the utilization of the benefits by the members of the participating groups. Members of our local have used the following benefits provided under the plan: 23 last will and testaments, 59 general consultations (including 34 via telephone), 7 real estate transactions, 2 matrimonial proceedings, 4 consumer rights proceedings, 44 health care proxies and living wills, 22 powers of attorney, 1 legal defense and 1 estate administration. When one considers that there is no out of pocket expense for the wills, consultations, health care proxies, living wills and the powers of attorney and that the out of pocket real estate expense is \$60, our members have benefited financially. Think what the costs would have been for these benefits based on billable hourly fees for attorneys in our area!!!

We hope that you will all continue to use this benefit and will go to the website for more information.

Flo Laicher
Chairperson, Westchester Putnam Legal Services Fund

*Congratulations
to Our Recent
Retirees*

Monika Biscoglio

*Mary Blancuzzi-
Conti*

Barbara Burnap

Virginia Hanbridge

A Bouquet from Us

Get Well Wishes to:

*Bernadine Ordonez, Tech Center, on
recovery from surgery.*

*Carolyn Fedro-Schneider, Pines
Bridge, on recovery from surgery*

Thank You from Us

Thank you to

Monika Biscoglio

*for having served as Chairperson
of the Welfare Fund.*

*Monika who is a recent retiree
continues to serve as a Trustee
on the Welfare Fund.*

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