

USA INFORMATION

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT...

There is a lot of discussion and disgust across the state and the nation about education. Teachers are being demonized and believed to be what is wrong with the education system. Many politicians are using this demonization to rationalize what they are attempting to do to teachers. Some are using it as their platforms to make taxpayers believe it is teachers fault their taxes are so high. Others are trying to use it as a way to hinder our rights to collectively bargain. It is very important now, more than ever, that teachers stay united. The fabric of the education system is being offensively threatened and teachers need to understand what that means and become educated about what's going on and why. I urge you not to feed into the negative rhetoric being spewed by the media, which is driven by the politicians making that information bias to needs of politicians, not teachers. Knowledge is a powerful thing, and we have resources available to help us understand what is happening and what is being done about it.

New York State United Teachers, NYSUT, has a plethora of information on their website at www.nysut.org that will help us understand what is being done on an overall front to fight this attack on teachers. NYSUT also offers several different magazines and newsletters in print. One such publication is "NYSUT UNITED". In February, I had the honor to attend lobby day at our State Capital. Throughout the day, hundreds of other BOCES employees and I were given the opportunity to speak with our legislators about the importance of what BOCES does and all the wonderful things we offer our community.

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There is a positive write up in "NYSUT UNITED" magazine about BOCES lobby day; I implore you to read it.

I will be attending the Representative Assembly R.A. this month in New York City. My participation on a legislative/political committee with many other educators will help us to navigate through the hot topics. We will be discussing a variety of issues surrounding education like the tax cap, tier IV retirement and safeguarding public sector workers and retiree security to name a few. I will also have the opportunity to network with hundreds of teachers and union officials from around the state. My hope is that this networking will help us to see and understand what the trends are from the people that are setting them, not the media that's reporting them. In the next newsletter, I will include any and all the information I attained during the R.A.

In Solidarity,

Larry Marino

Upcoming Executive Board Meetings:

April 5 May 3 June 7

Location: Pinesbridge Conference room
3:00P.M.

Upcoming General Membership Meetings:

May 10th

Location: TBA 3:15 P.M.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT...

Section XXVII-Sick Leave

A. *“Paid sick leave shall be extended to all full-time salaried employees on the basis of 1 ½ days per employment month. At the beginning of each school year, ten-month employees will be credited with 15 days and 12-month employees with 18 days. Unused sick leave may be accumulated to a total of 260 working days. Sick leave shall be prorated for part-time salaried employees.*

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, parent or others living in the employee’s home.

B. *Full-time employees absent five or more consecutive days may be required upon return to work to submit a physician’s statement to the District Superintendent, or his designee, indicating the nature of the illness and fitness of the individual to return to work.”*

WHAT IS WRITTEN vs. WHAT IS IMPLIED

Although we are credited with 15 sick days, the understanding is that we will use them with discretion. By all means if we are sick, these days become crucial for our well-being. However, using these days just because they are credited to us damages our union as a whole. It is BOCES responsibility to have qualified teachers in front of students for as much of the school year as possible. This gives BOCES the right to send attendance letters out to employees who are half way through their credited days. It is up to all of us, as professionals, to provide the best service we can for our school community.

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 |

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

- Chairperson.....Lola Smerdon
- Secretary.....Nancy Finsmith
- Treasurer.....Janine deGrouchy-Hraska
- Trustees.....Larry Marino
Jenn Guiffre
Doreen Trani
- Consultant.....Flo Laicher

Administrator.....Daniel Cook Associates
(914) 250-0700
(212) 505-5050
1-800-DHCOOK1
(1-800-342-6651)
FAX# (212) 714-1454

Legal Fund.....(914) 997-1576

UNITED WE LEAD ARE ONE

A rally to support WORKERS' RIGHTS

NOON-1 pm Saturday, April 9
Corner of Seventh Ave. and 42nd Street
Times Square

WEAR RED! • BRING YOUR BANNERS!

**IF IT CAN HAPPEN IN WISCONSIN,
IT CAN HAPPEN HERE!**

Presented by NYSUT and NYS AFL-CIO



VOTE-COPE NEWS...

THE VOTE COPE CAMPAIGN IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN MARCH 28th

We will begin our VOTE COPE campaign on March 28th and it will run through April 8th. Your building representatives will be distributing the VOTE COPE information to you. If you have any questions please see your building representative or send an email to cschneider@pnwboces.org :

Supervisor Building Representative

Bellucci Michael Tomaseki

Sowul Lynn Ammann

Lowery Marie Russo

Kelderhouse Elisa Longo

Van Derstuyf Catherine Armisito

Gardner Rob Angiello

Spaulding Judy Gillet

VOTE-COPE (**V**oice **O**f **T**eachers in **E**ducation - **C**ommittee **O**n **P**olitical **E**ducation) 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.

Your contribution will protect your own profession and the institution in which our member work. As public employees, almost all condition affecting our professional environment, working condition 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. You can make your voice heard, and at the same time make an investment in your future, by contributing to VOTE-COPE, NYSUT's political action fund.

The United Staff Association of Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES will conduct its VOTE-COPE drive beginning April 19th. Your building representative will distribute campaign information and contributor cards. The suggested donation is **\$35.00** for teachers and **\$17.50** for support staff. Since our collective goal is to achieve **100% membership participation**, your contribution is needed to enable us to meet our goal. You are welcome to contribute more or less than the suggested donation. That amount is merely a suggestion. You have the right not to contribute without any reprisal and will not be favored or disadvantaged because you have exercised this right.

There are two ways to contribute to the VOTE-COPE campaign.

1. The **easiest and most convenient way** is to fill out the payroll deduction authorization card which your building representative will be giving to you. Many of our members choose this way and a **onetime** deduction of your elected amount will be deducted from your **May 13th** paycheck. Those of you who have already signed up for payroll deduction (you will not receive a payroll deduction card from your building representative) will not have to sign up again as the amount you previously signed up for will be deducted from your **May 13th** paycheck.
2. The second way to contribute is to fill out the top portion of the contribution card and attach a check made payable to: VOTE-COPE.

PLEASE RETURN THE CONTRIBUTION CARD TO YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE BY APRIL 8th.

VOTE-COPE NEWS... (CONTINUED)

For those who are retired, you should be receiving your VOTE-COPE information in the mail. Please complete the form and mail your completed form with your check donation to Carolyn Schneider, the address is on the back of the contribution form.

PLEASE HELP US REACH OUR 100% MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION. SUGGESTED DONATION IS \$35.00 FOR TEACHERS AND \$17.50 FOR SUPPORT STAFF; HOWEVER, FEEL FREE TO CONTRIBUTE WHATEVER AMOUNT YOU WOULD LIKE. NOW MORE THEN EVER, WE NEED OUR VOICES TO BE HEARD.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Schneider-**VOTE-COPE** Coordinator

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

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

IMPORTANT...

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

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 or distribution throughout the school year.

Please send retiree news for the newsletter to Winnie McCarthy 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...



USA PHONE NUMBER: (914) 962-9579

Our Sympathy to...



Doreen Sitzer lost her mother (in November)

Mary Ellen Lopeato lost her father (in November)

Jacqueline DePierro lost her father-in-law

Christina Egan lost her mother



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

Congratulations to...



Mark Endres on the birth of a baby girl

Andrew Niguidula on the birth of a baby boy

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

United Staff Association
Projects Building 2nd Floor
200 BOCES Drive
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598



Customer Name
Street Address
City, ST ZIP Code

