

# THE UNITED NEWSLETTER



LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

June 2016

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## From The Desk of the President

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 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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

February 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

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

October 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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

March 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**MARCH**  
 Total Days: 23 student

November 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

**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

April 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

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

December 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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

May 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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

January 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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

June 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

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

183 Student  
 + 4 Superintendent's Conference Day  
 187

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

Adopted 4/5/16

School Closed  
 No Students

Please note  
 the snow  
 make up  
 dates...



# 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](http://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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.**

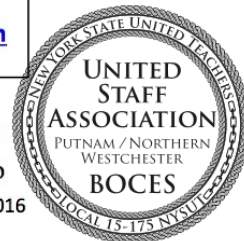
Call (914) 997-1576 to schedule an appointment.

Legal fund website:[www.teacherslegalfund.com](http://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 Declination 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  
\*\*preauthorization is required for expenses greater than \$600\*\*

**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](http://www.dhcook.com), by contacting the retiree liaison for the Fund (see below) or by calling (914) 250-0700**

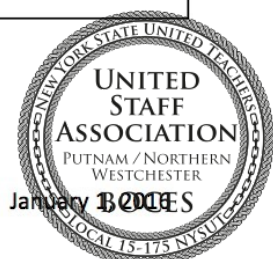
**LEGAL SERVICES BENEFIT** includes representation in civil matters as well as general legal matters. Benefits include but are not limited to legal defense, matrimonial proceedings, adoption, personal bankruptcy, change of name, homeowner's rights (real estate transactions), general consultation, document 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](http://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; [pnwboceswelfarefund@gmail.com](mailto:pnwboceswelfarefund@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.



# Welfare Fund Important Information



BENEFITS

## 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



# 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.

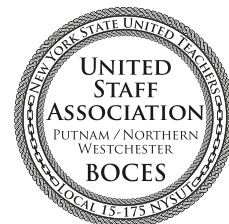
Sue Levy and her husband were down from MN where they live now near some grandchildren after moving from an earlier relocation to ME.

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 and Information

## 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](http://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.

Thank you to the faithful BOCES retirees who supported Harrison, the only son of our deceased member, Lola Smerdon and her late husband, Al. Harrison graduated from Fairfield



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](http://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](mailto:wam48@aol.com)

36 Cheshire Lane

Yorktown, NY 10598.



## Union Representatives

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
914-607-6736

### Executive Board:

President	Doug Andreotti
1st Vice President	Elisa Longo
2nd Vice President	Stephanie Buckhout
Secretary	Judy Gillet
Treasurer	Sharlene Bass
Membership Chairperson	Stacey Chiarella
Grievance Chairperson	Carolyn Schneider
Negotiations Chairpersons	Al Cotoia/Larry Marino
Program Rep Chairperson	Magaly Almonte

### Program Representatives

Administrator	Representative
Jim Bellucci	Lisa Tobin
Michael Sowul	Lynn Ammann
Steve Lowery	Marie Russo
Fredericka Butler	Nate Ball
Bob Kelderhouse/Sowul	Danielle Iammatteo <sup>(CLASS Transitions)</sup>
Bob Kelderhouse/Pinesbridge	Lisa Giacomini-Essell
Bob Kelderhouse/Pinesbridge	Deirdre Toolan
Lisa Hammel	Margo Schepart

## United Staff Association Welfare Fund

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

Chairperson:	Dawn Galvin
Secretary:	Nancy Finsmith
Treasurer:	Doreen Trani
Trustees:	Maria Pontbriand Jenn Guiffre Doug Andreotti
Retiree Liaison:	Janine deGrouchy-Hraska Janine is available by phone/email: (845) 735-4683 <a href="mailto:pnwboceswelfarefund@gmail.com">pnwboceswelfarefund@gmail.com</a>
Consultant:	Flo Laicher
Administrator:	Daniel Cook Associates (914) 250-0700 <a href="http://www.dhcook.com">www.dhcook.com</a>

## Upcoming Meetings

### Upcoming Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 6, 2016

3:00 P.M.

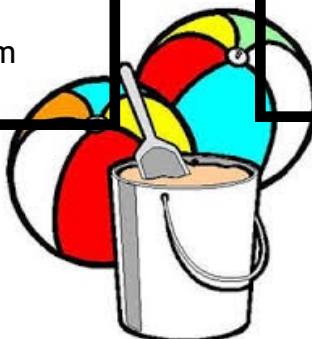
Pinesbridge Conference Room

### 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



Send items for A Bouquet from Us to  
Karen Carey at [kcarey@pnwboces.org](mailto:kcarey@pnwboces.org)



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

## IMPORTANT:

Carolyn Schneider is the Grievance Chairperson.  
Carolyn can be reached at [cschneider@pnwboces.org](mailto: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 Wynn McCarty, [wam48@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:mmarkolovic@pnwboces.org).

