

THE UNITED NEWSLETTER



LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

March 2013

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From The Desk of the President:

This year has been one for the record books! With the many tragedies several of us personally had to endure and the tragedies that just made us question people and their destructive motives, I for one will never forget this year. On top of all the incredulity out in the real world, our world here at BOCES has also been one for the record books. Still currently working with administration to agree on a fair and equitable contract has proven difficult. We have had a mediator working with both sides for the past two months and have had some success coming to an agreement on some of the issues. Currently, we are still working with the mediator and are confident that she will continue to provide both sides with some insight on how to move forward. We are closer with our new evaluation system than we have been in the past and are confident we are developing a fair evaluation tool for everyone involved. These two major items have consumed an enormous amount of time and dedication from many of our union brothers and sisters who we all owe a debt of gratitude.

As well as these two massive undertakings, this year we also have had some changes internally at CTE and Special Ed. These changes, although a little perplexing to us, apparently were necessary for BOCES to be able to come up with a budget that stays below the 2% tax cap put in place by our political leaders in Albany. One of the changes that has had an effect on all of us was the decision to have an LPN facilitate any first aid issues that arise at CTE. Due to this change, one of our nurses decided to resign, which had a ripple affect causing our other nurses to be temporarily shifted around until a permanent fix can be put into place. Also at CTE, two of our construction programs (Masonry, Telecommunications) have been reduced to one session a day and Plumbing had been canceled completely. What this saves BOCES is half a day's salary for 1 teacher and 2/3 of a day pay for two teachers. There have also been program changes in other areas of CTE that will reduce two other teachers pay to 1/3 of a day.

In Special Ed, there have been significant changes with the sizes of many of our classes. The lower elementary program at Walden is operating with up to ten students in a class (with even more during some periods, depending on grouping). To

alleviate these high student numbers per class, a new class has opened in what was the science lab. The upper elementary and junior high school at Walden has been operating outside the 8:1:1 parameters. Mike Sowul has been meeting with the guidance counselors to come up with a proposal to get these classes back in compliance. While it's comforting to know that our student numbers are going up, it is hopeful that we will be able to work with administration to ensure that our members are not continuously bearing the burden of oversized classes. Special education has also been feeling the pressures of insufficient staffing. Some classes have been operating without the appropriate number of one to one aides and teacher aides. The hiring process had begun for approximately seven new aides.

Many of us, including myself, feel overwhelmed, overworked, and anxious about how this school year has been progressing and what the future holds with all the looming changes. As long as we all band together and go through it together, keeping our solidarity at the forefront, there is nothing we cannot get through as a union!

In Solidarity, Larry



Know Your Contract:

SECTION XXVIII - GENERAL STAFF MEETINGS

B. Number and Duration of Meetings - The total of Directors' General Staff Meetings and Supervisors' General Staff Meetings held outside of regular working hours shall not exceed 14 in any school year. Such meetings shall begin as soon as feasible following dismissal of classes and shall terminate no later than 5:00 p.m. The total of 14 meetings specified above shall include night and weekend obligations. Such night and weekend obligations shall be as per past practice, provided, however, that past practice may be changed for a building, department, or program by a departmental or program/building committee as defined by the Shared Decision-Making Agreement.

C. Supervisors' General Staff Meetings - Each supervisor shall make every effort to hold staff meetings during regular working hours. This provision refers to general staff meetings called by the supervisor and does not apply to such meetings as case conferences, parent conferences, etc. Employees shall be given 24-hours' notice of general staff meetings called by the supervisor to be held outside of regular working hours.

E. Meetings for Teacher Aides and Bus Attendants - The total of Directors' General Staff Meetings and Supervisors' General Staff Meetings held outside of regular working hours shall not exceed 10 in any school year. Such meetings shall begin as soon as feasible following dismissal of classes and shall terminate no later than 5:00 p.m. The total of these 7 meetings shall include night and weekend obligations. Such night and weekend obligations shall be as per past practice, provided, however, that past practice may be changed for a building, department, or program by a departmental or program/building committee as defined by the Shared Decision-Making Agreement.

What this means is that mandatory staff meetings for everyone, excluding aides and bus attendants, should not exceed 14 in any given school year. This does not take into account all the voluntary committee meetings and or any staff meetings held during regular working hours.

Teacher aides and bus attendants' staff meetings should not exceed 10 in any given school year. This also does not take into account all the voluntary committee meetings and or any staff meetings held during regular working hours.

By-Law Changes:

Our union By-Laws were written over 20 years ago. The By-Law Committee has been working very hard on reviewing the Constitution and By-laws to bring them up to date with current concerns, and so that we can better facilitate our union. They are close to completing some amendments they would like to recommend to the membership. Once they are ready, a copy of the proposed amendments will be mailed to each of us for review. The plan is to discuss and vote on accepting the amendments at our May union meeting (date TBD). Keep an eye out for the mail for the amendments sometime in mid April.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to the members on the By Law Committee for taking on such a huge task.

The committee members are:
 Stephanie Buckhout - Chairperson
 Lisa Tobin
 Ann Gullen
 Debra Ashley
 Sharlene Bass
 Al Cotoia
 Doug Andreotti

Welfare Fund Information:

Dependent Coverage For Optical Benefit

To ensure proper processing of optical claims for your dependent children who are full time college students (over the age of 19, under the age of 24) , please make sure the Fund Administrator has the necessary student proof on record for the Fall and Spring Semesters. Refer to your Welfare Fund benefit for specific information on Dependent Coverage. The Benefit Booklet is available on our Union Website for your convenience: <http://pnwb.ny.aft.org/member-benefits/welfare-fund>





The United Staff Association would like to congratulate Chef Jenn Guiffre as a NYS Educator of Excellence!

Chef Jenn was recently recognized as the 2013 New York State Educator of Excellence by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF). This nationally recognized award is given out across the nation with only 35-40 recipients a year, nationwide, receiving it. As part of the award, there is a trip to Chicago to attend the 2013 ProStart Educator of Excellence Awards.

NYSUT Race for Solidarity

The first NYSUT Race for Solidarity will happen on Saturday May 18 at FDR Park in Yorktown. We hope to get a lot of our members to participate in the 5K Run/Walk to fundraise for the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund. This event is taking place right in our backyard so we should have good representation from our union so our brothers and sisters from other schools can see firsthand we are united, not just with ourselves, but with them. If you are interested in attending, send Larry an e-mail, and he will register everyone together.

We hope to see many of you at this event!

New York State Teacher Retirement System

Alternate Delegate Positions

Currently there will be openings for New York State Teacher Retirement Alternate Delegate positions next year. Alternate delegate positions are held by active members of our union and act as back up delegates in the event the delegate is unable to attend the Annual Delegates Meeting usually held the first Sunday and Monday in November. At this meeting, updates, seminars, and resources of the NYSTRS are available for attendants. One of the most important responsibilities of the delegates or alternate delegate, if necessary, is to cast votes for NYSTRS board positions. For additional information, you may go to www.nystrs.org and get valuable information about the retirement system.



Union T-Shirt Information:

WHEN TO WEAR YOUR T-SHIRT:

- EVERY WEDNESDAY
- All staff meetings
- Union meetings/functions
- Superintendent Conference Days
- Public interactions: Meet the Teacher Night/Fundraisers ect

Wearing these shirts together is a way to begin to re-build the harmony and solidarity that has been absent from our union for many years!



Union T-Shirt Re-Order

Below are pictures of the items that will be available for purchase by union members. Our union logo will be put on the left side chest above your heart. Any item you want can be viewed on the company website <http://www.ethixmerch.com/>. When you are on the web page type in search bar King Louie to be able to view the right garments. All items must be pre ordered and prepaid (order form to follow). No items will be ordered without being pre-paid for. All items except the Challenger item will be ordered in navy blue with our white logo on the left chest.

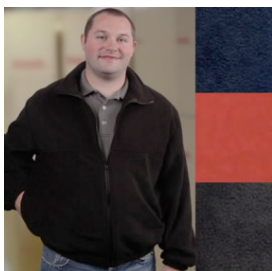
Lady Challenger Item #L3700/\$80.00



Challenger Item #3700/\$80.00



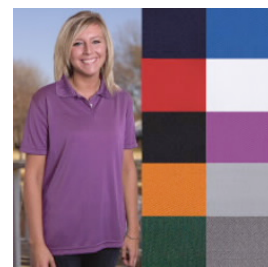
Explorer Item #5200 /\$50.00



Performer Item#J1121/\$30.00



Ladies Performer Item# W1120/\$30.00





Wellness Committee Presentations:

Wellness is the state or condition of being in good physical and mental health.

You are cordially invited to attend the following presentations:

Sleep Disorders

Lauren Johnson (HVHC)
Wednesday, April 3rd
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Amphitheater (Tech South)

Social Security Information Session

Adrienne L Vavricka (SSA)
Wednesday, May 1st
2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
East Conference Room (Bldg A)



Wellness matters!

Please find time to attend one of these great presentations from the Wellness Committee.



SAVE THE DATE

May 3-10 in the Walden Library

WALDEN PTO and Pines Bridge Book Fair

Story Laboratory-

Reading Gives You Super Power





Retiree News and Information:

Pete Smith: When most people are becoming great grandparents, Peter Smith became a grand parent on 11/1/12. Our daughter, Kellyn Smith-Kenny, gave birth to a beautiful girl, Calliah Smith-Kenny. Life is good here in The Villages.

Jane Lewis: Her husband, Stanley, died in late February. She lives in Tampa, FL and she has had visits from Kathy and Craig Little from Tucson, Arizona and in February, Sue Levy visited her from Minnesota.

Retiree Beth Maley, president of the Putnam Chorale, invites all to their spring concert Sunday April 28 at 3:00 P.M. at Temple Beth El in Brewster NY.

Our members are always on the move:

Margaret and Tom Burgess: Margaret and Tom have moved from Pleasantville to Winterhaven, FL. Her daughter, Eileen, is a college president in the area and able to visit often as is her daughter, Peggy.

Mary Mello: Mary moved from Charleston, SC to Virginia Beach, VA. Her sister lives in the area. She lost her husband in the past years.

Svetlana Keuper: Svetlana moved to Cincinnati, Ohio near her family. She lost her husband in the past years.

Bob Tompkins: Bob is doing well in retirement. His youngest son married Al Gregory's granddaughter last year and they are expecting a baby this year. They live in Long Island City and her works are in AV Editing and Production. His older son is in California working on the creative aspects of Film and Video Production. He has set up a website "Working Not Working" for creative types to interface with projects.

From the retirees on the Jersey Shore.

Tina Goslee made out ok in the hurricane in Ocean Grove, New Jersey. Mary Havens reported she lost a few trees in Forked River, New Jersey and Joyce Vitulii made out ok in Manahawkin, New Jersey but did take some water in her garage and was off the shore during the storm. Joyce and her husband are off to Italy for ten days in April. Joyce has been very faithful to deceased retiree Ann Hirsh's daughter, DJ. DJ was moved to an adult home down county and attends a day program.

Retiree Reunion:

Save the Date:

As many of the BOCES retirees know, over the years we have had several reunions. Plans are to have the next BOCES RETIREE REUNION in September of 2014, most likely in early September at a place central like Travelers Rest in Millwood. Flo Laicher has been most generous with her time and made the plans and keeps the current email addresses. If you want to be kept up to date, please send her your current email: pyshire@comsast.net



Union Representatives

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
(914)962-9579

Executive Board:

President	Larry Marino
1st Vice President	Catherine Armisto
2nd Vice President	Doug Andreotti
Secretary	Jenn Guiffre
Treasurer	Dan Gottfried
Membership Chairperson	Debra Haggerty
Grievance Chairperson	Carolyn Schneider
Negotiations Chairperson	Al Cotoia
Building Rep Chairperson	Judy Gillet

Program Representatives:

Administrator	Representative
Jim Bellucci	Stephanie Buckhout
Michaael Sowul	Lynn Ammann
Steve Lowery	Marie Russo
Marla Gardner	Robert Angiello
Clark Callahan	Fatima Oliveira
Bob Keldershouse/Sowul	Elisa Longo (CLASS Transistions)
Bob Keldershouse(Pinesbridge)	Lisa Giocomini-Essell (Pinesbridge)
Mia Wrobel	Margo Scheport

United Staff Association Welfare Fund

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

Chairperson:	Dawn Wargula
Secretary:	Nancy Finsmith
Treasurer:	Doreen Trani
Trustees:	Cindy Flynn Jenn Guiffre Janine deGrouchy-Hraska Larry Marino Doreen Trani
Retiree Liaison	Janine deGrouchy-Hraska
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

Upcoming Meetings:

Upcoming Executive Board Meetings:

April 2, 2013

3:00 P.M.

Pines Bridge Conference Room

Upcoming General Membership Meetings:

May 14, 2013

3:15 P.M.

Murphy's Restaurant



A Bouquet from Us:

Our Sympathy to...

Mark Hilpl who lost his father.
Elizabeth Marques who lost her father.
Retiree Bernie Brunco, teacher aide, recently passed away.

In Our Thoughts...

Michael Tomaseski for a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to...

Stacey Chiarella on the birth of a baby boy.



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



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

IMPORTANT:

Carolyn Schneider is the Grievance Chairperson.
She can be reached at 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 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.

