

THE UNITED NEWSLETTER



LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

March 2014

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From The Desk of the President:

Hello fellow union brothers and sisters:

Today as I write this marks the 6th week since I became your president. First, I would like thank Larry Marino and the executive board for their confidence in me with this great responsibility.

I am also very grateful in having a great executive board working with me to bring their knowledge and experience to the many challenges we face.

I can say that the last six weeks have been challenging. However, I have found these challenges to be, at the least, invigorating.

Our BOCES faces many external challenges. Two examples: the two percent tax cap and pressure on school districts to balance their budgets at a reduced level. BOCES must be seen as a low cost provider of high quality services. I believe this is one of our greatest strengths and must be the focus of BOCES marketing measures.

At the same time, it is imperative that all we have worked for, wages and benefits, must be preserved. It is the talent of each of us that gives this BOCES its highly regarded reputation. It is this talent that

drives an organization like BOCES to provide the highest level of services to our component districts and their students.

I want you to know that your executive board and I are only interested in preserving your rights and benefits and building a professional relationship with administration that fosters collegiality and respect for all.

Thank you for all that you do for students.

In solidarity,
Doug Andreotti



Welfare Fund Information:

NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE BENEFIT PLAN

To: All Members and Eligible Dependents Covered by the United Staff Association Welfare Fund

Date: January, 2014

This is to serve as notice to all members and eligible dependents covered by the United Staff Association Welfare Fund ("the Fund") of modifications to the Fund's benefit plan, effective **January 1, 2014**.

These modifications are necessary due to uncertainties with respect to the application of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("PPACA") to the benefit plan of the Fund.

Effective January 1, 2014, each covered member is required to make separate elections for individual dental benefits and vision benefits and pay a separate nominal contribution of \$1.00 per annum for individual dental and \$1.00 per annum for vision benefits to the Fund.

Effective January 1, 2014, the medically oriented benefits are modified as noted below:

None of these changes requires any immediate action on your part.

- **Major medical deductible reimbursement** - Once per individual member and \$405 per family of major medical deductible costs are paid in a calendar year, thereafter, the Fund will pay an additional 1% of all deductible costs incurred in that same year. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.
- **Medicare Part B deductible benefit** - Once \$75 of the Medicare Part B deductible is paid in a calendar year, thereafter, the Fund will pay an additional 1% of all deductible costs incurred in that same year. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.
- **Hearing Aid benefit** - Once the initial \$200 for the hearing aid benefit is paid, thereafter, the

Fund will pay an additional benefit of \$10 to be used for the purchase of each additional hearing aid during the same 24 month period. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.

- **Psychiatric benefit** - Once \$30 per visit is paid up to 55 visits in a calendar year, thereafter, the Fund will pay \$1 per visit during the same year. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.
- **Physical exam benefit** - Once \$200 for a physical exam is paid, thereafter, the Fund will pay an additional \$10 per physical exam during the same 24 month period. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.
- **Mammography benefit** - Once the initial \$100 for mammography is paid, thereafter, the Fund will pay an additional \$10 per mammography during the same year. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.
- **Orthotic Benefit** - Once the initial \$100 for orthotics is paid, thereafter, the Fund will pay an additional 1% of the costs incurred in the same 24 month period per orthotic. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.
- **Shingles benefit** - The Fund will reimburse up to \$150 per injection within a calendar year. All other elements of this benefit remain unchanged.



Know Your Contract:

SECTION IX - PERSONAL BUSINESS LEAVE

Full-time salaried employees shall be granted personal leave without loss of pay during each employment year not to exceed five days with no reason needed except before or after a holiday or when consecutive days are requested. Unused personal days can convert to sick days.

What this means:

You DO NOT have to provide a reason as long as you give at least three days' notice and it is not before or after a holiday/recess break. Put in the comment box **No Reason required**. One of the five days can be used for a compelling emergency where no reason is needed regardless if it's within the three days or not provided it's not before or after a holiday/recess.

Also remember that any personal day also needs to be entered into sub-finder.

SECTION XXX - RENEWAL OF EMPLOYMENT

Employees whose employment agreements will not be renewed or those whose employment will be in doubt shall be so notified no later than June 1st. If no notice is given by June 1st, the agreement shall be renewed.

What this means:

Doubt letters will not be given out until June 1st (not on May 15th) of each school year moving forward. The extra two weeks' time will hopefully reduce the amount of letters given out being BOCES will have more time to establish the schedule for next year.

SECTION XL - RETIREMENT ALLOWANCE

Eligibility - A salaried member of the bargaining unit who has been in the employ of the Board for 10 or more years who submits to the District Superintendent, in writing, at least 90 days' an irrevocable notice of intention to retire under the New York State Teachers' or Employees' Retirement System shall be eligible to receive a retirement allowance. The District Superintendent reserves the right to waive the 90 day notice.

What this means:

There is no more 6 month notice required. To receive your retirement allowance (unused sick days) you must give at least a 90 day notice. This notice is irrevocable and cannot be withdrawn by you at a later date.



Wellness Presentations:

You are cordially invited
to attend the following presentations:



The World of Credit & Credit Cards
Christian Moriarty
Certified Credit Counselor
March 19, 2014
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
1st Floor Conference Room
Projects Room

Managing Diabetes
HVHC Speaker's Bureau
April 23, 2014
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Front Conference Room
School Services Building

Women's & Men's Health
HVHC Speaker's Bureau
May 14, 2014
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
West Conference Room
School Services Building

Wellness matters. Please find the time to attend one of the great presentations.
Hope to see you there!!



Subfinder Procedures:

Below is the procedure that teachers and aides need to follow when a teacher calls out sick. This procedure will ensure that an aide gets compensated for being a substitute teacher for the day.

This does not ensure that an aide will not be alone in the room. It just ensures that they will be compensated as a substitute teacher.

If a teacher calls in and made arrangements with their aide, they should go on SubFinder as “no sub required”. The aide should then go on SubFinder and put it in as “classroom teacher coverage” so it will go into the sub aide pool to get coverage.

WinCapWeb:

Personal Leave Business

In addition to paychecks, salary notices, and attendance balances, WinCapWeb is used for all personal leave business.

Follow these simple steps to ensure a successful recording of personal leave:

- Make sure you have a login/id for the system. If you do not have a login/id, please contact HR for assistance.
- Once logged into the system, select My Leave Requests.
- Select +Add New Leave Request to input personal leave request and follow the steps.
- Call Lisa Perrone at ext. 314 if anything unusual occurs, or if you have any doubt about correctly recording and requesting personal leave business.
- See Know Your Contract section of the March 2014 newsletter for personal day explanation.





American Cancer Society "Friendraiser"

When: Wednesday, March 26, 2014
6-8 PM

Where: Life, the Place to Be
2 Lawrence Street, Ardsley, NY 10502

Learn about our mission
Learn about our programs
Become a friend

Admission: \$40 in advance, \$50 at the door

For questions please contact:
Contact information coming soon



The NYSUT Tarrytown Regional Office
School Related Professionals Conference



Details to follow....



Pre-Retirement Seminar:

NYSUT Retirees-Westchester/Putnam

914-592-4411

520 White Plains Road-Suite 400

Tarrytown, NY 10591

www.westputretirees.com

Executive Committee:

February 15, 2014

Dear Local President:

Please distribute the following information to active NYSUT members:

**Alma Cormican
President**

The Retiree Council of NYSUT E.D.15/16 is again sponsoring two workshops on Pre-Retirement. They will be conducted on Wednesday March 12, 2014 and on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the NYSUT Regional office in Tarrytown. Snacks, coffee and tea will be available.

**Florence McCue
Executive V-P**

One workshop will cover investments, Social Security and Medicare. We will have a speaker on maximizing retirement income. We will also cover getting your legal house in order and a presentation on the Retirement System by Karen Magee.

**Robert Hudson
Vice-President
Legislation**

Cost for both workshops will be \$20 single person and \$30 couples (spouses and other folks who may be included in any legal documents are welcome). There is a limit of thirty participants because of room size. Reservations and checks must be in by March 6, 2014. Usually the workshops fill up quickly. The money collected will be used by our Scholarship Committee to provide funds to deserving seniors in selected Westchester schools.

**John Eshoo
Vice-President
Membership**

If interested, please fill out the form below and mail with checks made out to Westchester Putnam Retirees, by March 3, 2014.

**Evelyn Partalis
Vice-President
Programs**

**John Roden
Treasurer**

Sincerely,

**Irene Kanowitz
Secretary**

M. Alma Cormican
President, RC 15/16
Westchester/Putnam Retirees

**Linda Doerr
Vice-President,
Community
Outreach**

Name _____ School District _____

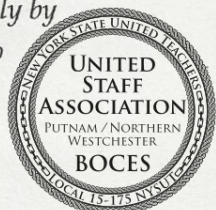
Address _____ City/Town _____ Zip _____

Email address or Phone Number _____

Number of Participants _____ 1 _____ 2; Check enclosed ___ \$20 or ___ \$30

Mail to: Alma Cormican
c/o NYSUT Retirees
520 White Plains Road, Suite 400
Tarrytown, NY 10591

*Email is used only by
us to respond to
participants.*



**Glenn Lucas
Vice-President,
Communication**

**At-Large
Mary Curtis
Veronica O'Connor
Kay Staplin
Dolores Thompson**

Union Representatives

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

Executive Board:

President	Doug Andreotti
1st Vice President	Catherine Armisto
2nd Vice President	Stephanie Buckhout
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	Lisa Tobin
Michaael Sowul	Lynn Ammann
Steve Lowery	Marie Russo
Marla Gardner	Robert Angiello
Fred Santoli	Fatima Oliveira
Bob Keldershouse/Sowul	Elisa Longo (CLASS Transistions)
Bob Keldershouse(Pinesbridge)	Lisa Giocomini-Essell (Pinesbridge)
Kim Fontana	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 Finsmit
Treasurer:	Doreen Trani
Trustees:	Cindy Flynn Jenn Guiffre Doug Andreotti
Retiree Liaison:	Janine deGrouchy-Hraska Janine is available by phone/email: (845) 735-4683 pnwboceswelfarefund@gmail.com
Consultant:	Flo Laicher
Administrator:	Daniel Cook Associates (914) 250-0700 FAX (212) 714-1455 www.dhcook.com

Upcoming Meetings:

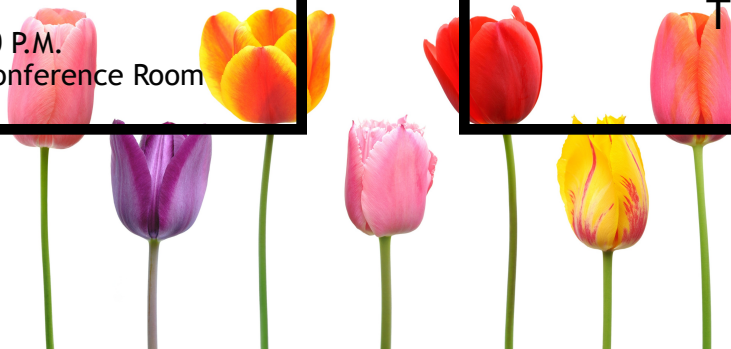
Upcoming Executive Board Meetings:

1st Tuesday of every month:
Tuesday, April 1, 2014

3:00 P.M.
Pines Bridge Conference Room

Upcoming General Membership Meetings:

TBD



A Bouquet from Us:

Our Sympathy to:

Rob Angiello for the loss of his mother.



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



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.

