

THE UNITED NEWSLETTER



LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

May 2015

School Calendar 2015-2016 <i>Page 2</i>	Know Your Contract: Summer School <i>Page 3</i>	Welfare Fund Information <i>Page 4</i>	General Membership Meeting Information <i>Page 5</i>	End of Year Solidarity Meeting <i>Page 6</i>	NYS Retirement System Information <i>Page 7</i>	Retiree News and Information <i>Page 8</i>	Contact Information/Upcoming Meetings <i>Page 10</i>	Bouquet from Us/Important Information <i>Page 11</i>
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From The Desk of the President:

Hello Members:

Spring is finally here. After one of the worst winters in many years, we surely have earned some nice weather.

In the last newsletter, I wrote how important workplace safety is and how we need to manage risks. This became very apparent after one of our members was injured by a student. Misinformation and poor communication from administration created anxiety. Your union leadership has met with administration on several occasions since this incident and have voiced our concerns about the safety of staff and how this incident was handled. Going forward, we will continue to meet with administration about how staff are informed of incidents such as this and to ensure the appropriate safety measures and procedures are correctly implemented.

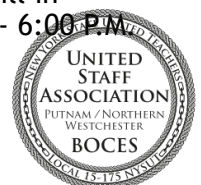
I am also concerned members are treated in a professional and respectful manner and that their concerns are being addressed. If you have a

concern, have contacted your administrator and are ignored or your concern is not addressed to your standards, please contact your program representative and request assistance. Program representatives will contact the administrator to seek a resolution to your concern. Please do not hesitate to ask your union representatives for assistance. Nothing can change at BOCES if we do not stand together unified.

On another note, NYSUT has been very active this budgetary cycle lobbying in Albany. There have been several positive results from this lobbying effort: \$1.3 billion in school aid, BOCES, and other expense based services fully funded at present levels of \$266 million. On the minus side, the current APPR system is basically thrown out and a new APPR system will be put in place by the State Education Department. These changes will be addressed in either a Memorandum of Agreement or will be included in our next contract negotiation.

I hope to see everyone at our next General Membership Meeting at the Piatto Grill in Yorktown on May 14th from 3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

In Solidarity,
Doug Andreotti





2015-2016 School Calendar :

PUTNAM/NORTHERN WESTCHESTER BOCES
200 BOCES DRIVE, YORKTOWN HEIGHTS, NY 10598

BOCES CAMPUS SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015-2016

The calendar below has been established by the District Superintendent of Schools. It is essentially constructed to meet the needs of the greatest number of children to be served by the regional program at any given time.

This calendar primarily relates to BOCES operated central facilities - Special Education classes, Career and Technical Education classes and Guidance Center. Itinerant staff members will follow the school calendars of the two or more schools to which they are assigned. The local district's calendar takes precedence over the BOCES' Calendar in the case of teachers assigned to school district locations.

DATE	DAY	EVENT
September 1	Tuesday	Superintendent's Conference Day for all employees Schools not in session.
September 2	Wednesday	Opening of School for Students
September 7	Monday	Labor Day – Schools not in sessions
September 14 & 15	Monday & Tuesday	Rosh Hashanah – Schools not in session
September 23	Wednesday	Yom Kippur – Schools not in session
October 12	Monday	Columbus Day – Schools not in session
November 3	Tuesday	Superintendent's Conference Day for all employees Schools not in session
November 11	Wednesday	Veterans Day – Schools not in session
November 25	Wednesday	½ Day – BOCES-Wide Early Dismissal
November 26 & 27	Thursday & Friday	Thanksgiving Recess
November 30	Monday	Classes Resume
December 24 – January 1	Thursday - Friday	Holiday Recess
January 4	Monday	Classes Resume
January 18	Monday	Martin Luther King Day – Schools not in session
February 15 - 19	Monday - Friday	Mid-Winter Recess
February 22	Monday	Classes Resume
March 21-25	Monday – Friday	Spring Recess
March 28	Monday	Classes Resume
April 22	Friday	Superintendent's Conference Day for all employees Schools not in session
May 30	Monday	Memorial Day – Schools not in session
June 22	Wednesday	Last Day of School for Students
June 23	Thursday	Rating Day – Last Day for Staff

AS OF THIS DATE, SNOW MAKE-UP DAYS WILL BE IN THE ORDER OF: MARCH 21, MARCH 22, MARCH 23 AND MARCH 24. THIS ORDER OF MAKE-UP DAY(S) IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PERSONAL LEAVE AND LEAVE WITHOUT PAY REQUESTS WILL NOT BE GRANTED SHOULD WE NEED TO USE THESE AS SNOW MAKE UP DAYS. STAFF SHOULD NOT MAKE BINDING COMMITMENTS FOR TRIPS ON THESE DAYS.

Adopted: February 10, 2015



Know Your Contract:

Section XLIII - SUMMER SCHOOL:

A. Salary for members of the bargaining:

Certificated Professional:

Step 7 or higher- Daily rate of **BA Step 5** on Certificated Salary Schedule
Less than step 7-Daily rate of BA Step 2 on Certificated Salary Schedule

Teacher Aide and Bus Driver:

Step 5 or higher- Daily rate of **Step 3** on Teacher Aide Salary Schedule
Less than Step 5- Daily rate of Step 2 on Teacher Aide Salary Schedule

Teaching Assistant and Adaptive Equipment Specialist

Step 5 or higher- Daily rate of **Step 3** on Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule
Less than Step 5- Daily rate of Step 2 on Teaching Assistant Salary Schedule

School Nurse

Step 5 or higher- Daily rate of **Step 3** on School Nurse Salary Schedule
Less than Step 5- Daily rate of Step 2 on School Nurse Salary Schedule

LPN/WSI

Step 5 or higher- Daily rate of **Step 3** on Practical Nurse/Recreation Specialist Salary Schedule
Less than Step 5- Daily rate of Step 2 on Practical Nurse/Recreation Specialist Salary Schedule

B. Persons employed by BOCES for a summer session who are not regular BOCES employees will be hired at a rate set by the BOCES Administration. The rate established by the BOCES Administration cannot exceed the rate of BOCES employees in similar roles.

D. The workday in the summer session shall be 6 hours.

F. All applications for Summer School employment by BOCES employees must be received by February 1st. Recruitment of non-BOCES employees will commence beginning February 1st.

What this means:

This is the second year of this change in salary to the Extended School Year (ESY) program. Make sure you read this section of the contract as there is other information about meetings and sick days during the ESY.

(For contract information, log into the Employee Resource Area (ERA) www.pnwboces.org, using your school email and password)



Welfare Fund Important Information:

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

The Trustees of the Fund are pleased to announce benefit improvements, including several increases to the Dental Benefits and an increase to the Variable Benefit, effective July 1, 2015.

As a result of the changes to the plan, a memo and an updated Benefit Booklet will be mailed to each covered member at their home address.

Please take the time to make sure your address is current with the Welfare Fund by logging on to your account at www.dhcook.com or by calling the Fund Administrator at (914) 250-0700.

Change of address forms can be obtained at www.dhcook.com.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Satisfaction Survey.

The Trustees of the USA Welfare Fund



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, May 14, 2015

3:00 P.M.-6:00 P.M.

Piatto Grill

Triangle Shopping Center, Yorktown Heights NY

Please join us for an afternoon with colleagues and an informative meeting.

Agenda:

- Reports & General Comments
- New Business; Q & A

A light meal will be serviced to include:

- Eggplant Rollatini
- Caesar Salad
- Penne ala Vodka
- Fusilli Estate (sundried tomatoes, scallions & artichoke hearts)
- Chicken Parmigiana
- Beverages available

R.S.V.P: **REGRETS ONLY** by Wednesday, May 6th to Karen Carey
kcarey@pnwboces.org

Sponsored by: United Staff Association



Sponsored by: United Staff Association

End of Year Solidarity Meeting

Details to Follow

**June 2015 at
Murphy's Restaurant
Yorktown, NY**

Light refreshments will be served!



New York State Teacher Retirement System (NYSTRS) Report:



PNW NYTRS Delegate Submitted by: Al J. Cotoia

As delegate to the NYSTRS, I periodically receive updates that affect the system and thought I would share some of the relevant information with our members.

Did you know that all school district employers contribute to the retirement fund?

The amount of cost incurred by the district is a percentage of payroll, which is determined and set by the NYSTRS Board. Currently the ECR (Employer Contribution Rate) for 2014-2015 is 17.53%, which increased 1.28% from 2013-2014. The estimated employer contribution for the 2015-2016 school year is 13.26%. If adopted by the NYSTRS board in July, this would mean a 4.27% decrease in cost to districts. The reason for the decrease is due primarily to favorable investment returns over the last several years.

Leaves of Absence Prior to Retirement as “ Regular Salary”:

Paid leave of absences are reportable to the System if they meet the following criteria:

- The paid leave must be duly provided for in the governing employment contract or CBA.
- The paid leave must not be tied to retirement or resignation.

The employee is expected to return to his/her position after leave and the paid leave of absence is available to all members of the bargaining unit or administrative staff, regardless of age or proximity to retirement.

Paid Leaves of Absence NOT Reportable as “ Regular Salary” to the System:

The paid leave of absence requires the employee’s resignation.

The paid leave of absence is immediately followed by the employee’s retirement.

Eligibility for paid leave of absence is dependent upon the employee’s age proximity to retirement, or the terms of the paid leave of absence require return of the monies paid pursuant to the leave if the employee does not retire at the end of the leave. If you have questions about your retirement, information is available on the NYSTRS website at www.NYSTRS.org or by calling the toll free number 1-800-356-3128. Although colleagues may try to be helpful and supportive, each individual situation can be unique and only a Retirement Specialist Representative can give the accurate and precise answer to address your specific situation. Always review your retirement statement for accuracy; if there are errors, contact NYSTRS immediately to get help in having the correct information listed. If you are anticipating retiring in the future (2 to 3 years out), it can be helpful to schedule to attend an area workshop seminar (listed on NYSTRS website) and become familiar with the important steps and considerations available to you so you can make the best decision for your retirement.

Even if you have many years ahead of your retirement, you still should be aware of your years of service, your tier benefits (they vary from Tier 1 to 6) and to stay current with what NYSTRS has to offer in support services.



Retiree News and Information:



Linda Bonavist has been off on a Trans-Atlantic cruise with Adrienne and Howard Forbes from Fort Lauderdale to the Mediterranean. Linda really has become a great travel writer keeping her family and friends up to date with her daily internet journals. She keeps track of all the activities, wonderful side trips, and port restaurants. Her grandchild has moved to California so Linda is busy traveling most of the year. Linda and friends have cruise plans for Hawaii and Australia next fall.

Word has it that Bill Broadnax is on the mend after a short hospitalization while visiting his sister in Detroit. Plans were in the works for an 80th birthday celebration in February, but it was moved to May.

We heard George O'Brien, Mary Ann Alvord and Ray Defoe had lunch in Florida over the winter and George and Mary Ann met Challis Thompson also.

Vito Rinaldo: We're off to Atlanta in about 10 days for Gavin's graduation from Georgia Tech. He'll stay another year and finish his Masters in Civil Engineering, which he's already earned 12 credits for. We'll stay there for a couple weeks and visit Dianne's sister and go to our niece's graduation as well. Moving Gavin during that time, but hopefully in the same building.

We hope Fred Maley is doing better with his rehab. He has been in North Salem and looks forward to going home soon.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Dan Cardinale. Dan passed away in April. Dan was one of the original founders of the Untied Staff Association at BOCES in the mid 1960's. Dan taught in Special Education, as well as EOE, in the Tech Center for over 30 years. Prior to his retirement, Dan was president of the USA for a short time. He is survived by his wife, Brenda, a retired BOCES Special Education teacher. Brenda is living in Assisted Living in Hampton CT. Their daughter, Francine, lives in Boston and son, Danny, in Beacon NY.

Retiree Message...

Every year more of our retirees have become snow birds or Florida residents. At least 26 of the retired USA members have notified of us of permanent residence in Florida. About 14 percent are full time and many, many more go for the winter.



Maybe we need a Florida reunion?
Any takers? Any organizers?

Our Sympathy to...

We extend our sympathy to Joan Herrman (retired horticulture teacher Tech and EOE) on the death of her husband, retired Tech Culinary Arts teacher Bill Herrman in mid-April in Mt Kisco. Their son Billy was a work study student at Pines Bridge while he was at Walden. After BOCES, Bill and Joan ran the restaurant and ski resort in Stormville.

[Obituary for William J. Herrman at Cargain Funeral Homes Inc. Carmel - Mahopac](#)



**If you have news to share,
please send it:**

Wynnie McCarthy, wam48@aol.com or
36 Cheshire Lane Yorktown, NY 10598.



Retiree News and Information: continued from page 9

Retirement parties have been planned for both Pines Bridge and Waldenfor details contact Nancy Finsmith at Pines Bridge nfinsmith@pnwboces.org and Lynn Magrone at Walden lmagrone@pnwboces.org. The parties are planned for the end of May/early June.

Join us for a Retirement Party!

Jo Ann DeB Brozzo Ellen Astorino Sara Mills-Cohen




When: June 5, 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Where: Piatto Grill, Yorktown Heights

\$60/person (\$15 Gift only) – Cash Bar

RSVP by May 15th with payment to Lynn Ammann.
Walden school, 200 BOCES Dr. Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Name:
Amount:

PINES BRIDGE



PARTY
Honoring:
*Debbie Alberga
Cindy Flynn
Carol Story
Ruby Whitman*

Date: Thursday, May 28th
Time: 3:15 PM -6:00 PM
Place: Piatto Grill
90 Triangle Circle
Yorktown Heights, NY

Cost: \$50.00 per person
Includes: appetizer, salad, entrée, soda
coffee, tea, dessert, and gifts (cash bar)

Name: _____
 I will attend. Payment of \$50.00 enclosed. Cash or Check made to CASH.
 I will not be able to attend, but would like to contribute \$10.00 towards the gifts.

Kindly RSVP by May 5th to:

Nancy Finsmith Pines Bridge School 200 BOCES Drive Yorktown Heights, NY 10598	Barbara Waldron Pines Bridge School 200 BOCES Drive Yorktown Heights, NY 10598	Pam Farrell c/o Lisa Giacomini-Essell Walden School 200 BOCES Drive Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
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Retiree Suggested Trips:

*Stunning architecture Impressive memorials
Woodlawn's "Hall of Fame" Stunning Tiffany stained glass windows
Re-opened Queens Museum after a 2-year renovation Lunch at elegant Water's Edge (L.I. City)*

Chanticleer Museum & Gardens with American Treasure Tour
Tuesday, June 17, 2015 Minimum of 30
Price: \$138 Reserve by March 1, 2015

is comprised of 30 acres of sights, textures, flowers and vegetables. It was created to illustrate horticulture. Enjoy the surroundings at a leisurely pace or take a tour with a guide. At the end of the tour, enjoy a casual buffet lunch before taking a guided tramtour of the American antique, porcelain and glass collection amalgamated by an anonymous private collector. Our tour takes us through the story where we hear the sounds and see the sights of the cultural history of America.

9/11 Museum, a Visit to the High Line & Afternoon Tea
Tuesday, August 18, 2015 Minimum 30
Price: \$184 Reserve by June 1, 2015

Tour Highlights:
Guided tour of 9/11 Museum Afternoon tea at the Pierre's Two E Lounge
View of newest extension of High Line view "chime bench" - giant xylophone and a see

Retiree Trip Information:

If any retirees are interested in trip details, contact:

Evelyn Partial
16 Rock Ledge, Ave # 5d1
Ossining, NY 10562

www.westputretirees.com



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	Judy Gillet
Treasurer	Sharlene Bass
Membership Chairperson	Stacey Chiarella
Grievance Chairperson	Carolyn Schneider
Negotiations Chairperson	Al Cotoia
Program Rep Chairperson	Magaly Almonte

Program Representatives:

Administrator	Representative
Jim Bellucci	Lisa Tobin
Michael Sowul	Lynn Ammann
Steve Lowery	Marie Russo
Fred Santoli	Nate Ball
Bob Kelderhouse/Sowul	Elisa Longo (CLASS Transitions)
Bob Kelderhouse/Pinesbridge	Lisa Giacomini-Essell
Bob Kelderhouse/Pinesbridge	Deirdre Toolan
Alisha Williams-McCorvey	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 Wargula
Secretary:	Nancy Finsmith
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:

Tuesday, May 5th & June 2nd
3:00 P.M.
Pinesbridge Conference Room

Upcoming General Membership Meeting:

Thursday, May 14, 2015
3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
Piatto Grill
Triangle Shopping Center, Yorktown



A Bouquet from Us:

Our Sympathy to...

Susan Collins for the loss of her mother..

Thomas Houlahan for the loss of his sister-in-law.



Send items for A Bouquet from Us to
Karen Carey at 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.
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 Wynnie McCarthy, 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.

