

# THE UNITED NEWSLETTER



LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

October 2016

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## From The Desk of the President

Good Day Members,

Fall has arrived and a crisp chill is in the air. I enjoy this time of year, as change surrounds us.

We see it in the change of colors on the leaves, the birds preparing to migrate south, and squirrels collecting and hiding acorns, as they prepare for a cold, dark Winter ahead.

Change also occurs here at BOCES. During our Summer Recess, Administration always reviews the processes and procedures from the prior school year. Their goal is to make improvements for the new school year.

On our first day of school, during Staff Meetings, we hear about these new procedures and processes, and to our dismay, some of these changes are found wanting.

Change should always be embraced, not feared.

However, if the staff who are directly affected were originally involved or consulted from the beginning of

the decision process, there would be consensus and better outcomes for Students and Staff.

Years ago, BOCES formed a committee of Staff Members and Administration that were tasked with "Shared Decision Making". Staff Members and Administrators goals were to discuss, agree, and come to a consensus that benefitted Students and Staff.

Unfortunately, this valuable Committee disbanded.

Over the last few years, your Union Leaders, through collaboration with Administration, have demonstrated their commitment to successfully share and address concerns. Our efforts have resulted in positive and influential changes that are a benefit and value-add to our Staff and Students.

As our school year progresses, if an issue arises, contact your Program Representative, as they continue to do an excellent and effective job in keeping the lines of communication open between Administration and you, our Members.

Enjoy the Fall season while it is upon us.....because....Winter is Coming.

In Solidarity,

Doug Andreotti



# Know Your Contract



## SECTION XXVIII - GENERAL STAFF MEETINGS

A. Directors' General Staff Meetings - Employees shall be given 48-hours' notice of general staff meetings called by the Director for all teachers in the department. Where possible, agendas shall be furnished 24 hours prior to the meeting.

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 12 in any school year. In the event of exigent circumstances or emerging issues of a time sensitive nature up to 2 additional meetings each year may be scheduled. Such meetings shall begin as soon as feasible following dismissal of classes and shall terminate no later than 5:00 p.m. Logs of the date and time of meetings shall be kept. This shall be the responsibility of administration. The total of 12 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. Supervisors are expected to keep the number of staff meetings held outside of regular working hours to a minimum. 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. No notice need be given of general staff meetings called by the supervisor to be held during regular working hours.

D. Meetings for Itinerant Teachers - Itinerant teachers who work in a number of local school buildings are to be informed by their program supervisor which staff meetings are mandatory.

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 8 in any school year. In the event of exigent circumstances or emerging issues of a time sensitive nature up to 2 additional meetings each year may be scheduled. Such meetings shall begin as soon as feasible following dismissal of classes and shall terminate no later than 5:00 p.m. Logs of the date and time of meetings shall be kept. This shall be the responsibility of administration. The total of these 8 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

**The mandatory number of staff meetings has been reduced:**

- **12 for Certified Staff**
- **8 for Teacher Aides and Bus Attendants.**

**However, in that reduced number, nightly meetings, once voluntary are now mandatory. For example: Graduation; Meet the Teacher; Open House.**





# Union Election Slate of Candidates:

## 2016 USA Election Ballot

**Directions: Vote for EACH Executive Board position, unless otherwise noted:**  
(Write-in spaces provided)

<p><b><u>President</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Doug Andreotti</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>1st Vice President (Special Ed)</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Elisa Longo</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>2nd Vice President (CTE)</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Buckhout</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>RA Delegates:Vote for two</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Larry Marino</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Josephine Scala</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Irene Snow</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sharlene Bass</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>Secretary</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Judith Gillett</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>Membership Chairperson</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Stacey Chiarella</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>
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**Directions: Vote for ONE Representative under your supervisor, unless otherwise noted:**  
(Write-in spaces provided)

<p><b><u>CTE/Lowery</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Marie Russo</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>CTE/Bellucci</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Tobin</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>Fox Meadow/Murphy</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nate Ball</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>RSE/TASC/Slobogin</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> John Boniello</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>	<p><b><u>Pinesbridge/Mate: Vote for two</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Deirdre Toolan</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lisa Giacomini-Essell</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>Walden/Sowul. Mate</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Danielle Iammatteo</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p> <p><b><u>Local School Building/Hammel</u></b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Margo Schepart</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> _____</p>
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### Election Process:

Ballots will be mailed to your home address shortly.

Completed ballots must be received by November 1st. (via postage paid envelope)

Or, if you prefer to vote in person at the Union polling location on Thursday, November 3, 2016 12:00-4:00P.M. Walden Dining Room, then please bring your numbered (#) envelope.



# 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.**

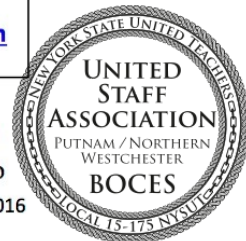
Call (914) 997-1576 to schedule an appointment.

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



# USA Welfare Fund: Legal Services Benefit

The Westchester Putnam Teachers Legal Services Fund provides a Legal Services Plan Benefit to all members of the United Staff Association Welfare Fund. The attorneys are available for consultation on the first Monday of each month during the school year and by appointment during the summer months. The plan includes, but is not limited to, preparation of Wills, Health Care Proxies, Living Wills, Powers of Attorney, and representation in Real Estate Transactions. Certain legal benefits are extended to parents and/or parent-in-laws of covered members.

If you need to update/create a Will, if your parents need to update/create a Will, if you are buying/selling a home, etc....please take advantage of this benefit by calling the attorney today to schedule an appointment. Consultations and select legal services (e.g. Simple Wills, Document Review, Identify Theft Protection Benefit, Living Will/Health Care Proxy) are at no charge to members with very low fees for other services (e.g. Simple Personal Bankruptcy - \$75.00, Change of Name - \$45.00, representation in Real Estate Transactions for primary residence - \$60.00, Uncontested Divorce - \$60.00, Uncontested Legal Separation - \$45.00-\$75.00) .

The Legal Fund Booklet is available on-line at [www.teacherslegalfund.com](http://www.teacherslegalfund.com)

To schedule an appointment with a legal service plan lawyer, call (914) 997-1576.

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.



## STUDENT LOANS: COLLEGE, CAUTIONS AND CONSEQUENCES

By: Mirkin & Gordon, P.C.

A college education generally leads to greater employment and earnings potential. However, it comes with a price. In 2012, approximately 70% of college students graduated with student loan debt that, nationally, averaged nearly \$30,000.00 per student. There was between \$900 billion and \$1 trillion in outstanding student loan debt in 2012.

Although they generally have lower loan limits, federal student loans which account for almost 80% of all loan debt offer a number of advantages over private student loans. Federal Student Loans offer:

- o Fixed interest rates generally ranging from 3.4% to 7.9%;
- o Repayment is deferred and interest does not start to accrue until after graduation;
- o Interest can often be deducted for income tax purposes;
- o Consolidation of multiple loans to afford the borrower a single payment; and
- o There are no pre-payment penalties.

There are a number of programs aimed to assist you in repaying your Federal student loan debt including:

- o Deferment (interest does not accrue) and forbearance (interest continues to accrue) programs for financial hardship, illness and other criteria;
- o Loan forgiveness for teachers and public service employees; and
- o Income Based Repayment (15% of discretionary income) and Pay as You Earn (10% of discretionary income) programs based upon financial hardship.



Repayment, however, is key to avoiding significant financial consequences. A default in repaying student loans can result in:

- o Automatic intercepts of income tax refunds and certain Federal benefits such as Social Security and disability;
- o Wage garnishment of up to 15%;
- o A negative impact on one's credit score which will result in higher credit based costs such as auto insurance; and
- o Harassment by debt collectors.

Significantly, there may be consequences to persons other than the borrower. For example:

- o A co-signor (e.g. a parent) will be liable for the loan if the borrower defaults; and
- o Student loans may be considered *marital debt* in the event of a divorce thereby affecting the non-borrower spouse's overall

financial settlement/obligation.

Discharge of Federal student loans is not common but is available in limited instances such as:

- o Death or total and permanent disability of the student;
- o If a Victim of 09/11; and
- o Bankruptcy (very rare).

Understanding student loans is a daunting task. Under the Benefit Fund's Legal Plan a covered member may schedule an appointment with an attorney to discuss available legal measures if confronted with a student loan collection issue.

Of course, our attorneys are available for consultation on this subject.

MIRKIN & GORDON, P.C.  
98 Cutter Mill Road, Suite 310N  
Great Neck, NY 11021

(516) 466-6030 • (718) 895-7160 • (914) 997-1576



# NYSUT Member Services

Submitted by Al Cotoia

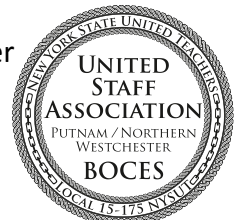
## Your Dues Dollar at Work Functional Classification



- 62¢**     **Field & Legal Services**  
Contract bargaining and enforcement, legal representation
- 8¢**     **Member Communication**  
Issue advocacy, NYSUT United, NYSUT Leader, [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org)
- 6¢**     **Facilities & Information Technology**  
16 NYSUT regional offices, technological infrastructure and support
- 5¢**     **Legislative and Political**  
Lobbying and legislative issues
- 5¢**     **Research & Educational Service**  
Union initiatives supported by research on financial, policy and statistical data
- 4¢**     **Administration**  
Human resources, accounting and general overhead
- 4¢**     **Governance**  
Membership participation, conventions and committee meetings
- 4¢**     **Program Services**  
Issue support for SRP, Health Care professionals and retirees
- 2¢**     **Organization & Affiliation Dues**  
International affiliate AFL-CIO, local labor councils and labor federations that advocate on NYSUT members' behalf

**\$1.00**

If you are interested in the vast and varied services NYSUT offers to you as a paying member that we are often not aware of, then log on the NYSUT web site [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org). There are discounts and incentives which NYSUT members have the ability to access which can enhance life and save money.





# NYSUT Summer Leadership Conference 2016

Submitted by Al Cotoia

The NYSUT Leadership Conference was held August 17- 19 in Parsippany, NJ. This conference was attended by 157 union members from around the county. The focus of the conference and the workshop sessions ranged from NYSUT Services, which include a broad range of topics delivered by directors and coordinators who work with our members in various areas. Presenters who provided valuable information were: the Director of Finance, the Director of Policy & Program Development, the Senior Legislative Representative, and NYSUT General Counsel to name a few. The information presented was current and informative and the questions by members were answered.

Receiving up to date and accurate information is more important today than ever. While many times colleagues with the best of intentions, give advice and although well-meaning they are incorrect or lacking current information. While some colleagues may seem knowledgeable, ultimately they do not have the facts or researched the issue sufficiently to back up their claim. It is best to seek information from our union representatives who have direct experience and expertise in the subject matter. This will prevent misinformation from cascading from member to member.



## “NYS INSURANCE RATES TO LEAP BY 17%” WRITTEN BY DAVID STERN

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/politics/politics-on-the-hudson/2016/08/05/ny-health-insurance-rates-leap-17/88305028/>

The Journal News reported in August that the Albany regulators announced that individual plans would rise 17% next year and small group plans would rise 8% . Sometimes we take our health benefit plan and the contributions we make for granted. The term of our contract holds our contribution increases to a .50% and a total increase of 3% over 5 years for certificated staff. The cost is even less for non-certificated staff. Individuals outside of our BOCES will pay an additional 17% next year alone or even 8% if you are in a small group plan; this financial draw from their income is significant. This smaller increase was accomplished in the last round of negotiations.



# Retiree News and Information

Mary Ann Alvord was recently out and ran into a former BOCES teacher son, Casey Grogan Helber. Carolyn's son is doing well, finished college since his mother died and presently a social worker at the Cottage School in Pleasantville and living in his family home in Mt Kisco. He told her he plays golf with his father Bob Grogan a former BOCES teacher and Mahopac retiree.

We have also heard Lola Smerdon's son Harrison has graduated from Fairfield University, living in Mahopac and looking to get some working experience before returning to school to further his education in clinical psychology. Lola died 4 years ago and his father, Al, died last year.

Dan Gottfried is enjoying his retirement in NYC, seeing lots of movies and shows, roaming the city on foot and bicycle, and treasuring being close to his two sons, Jonathan and Jeremy. Jonathan's company, Major League Hacking, is flourishing. They have 15 employees and work with close to 200 schools in the US and abroad. Jeremy's music career as a singer-songwriter and promoter is moving forward as well. He puts on a monthly show at Vivaldi's in Greenwich Village of acoustic musicians dubbed the Greenwich Village Showcase, and has performed at clubs throughout Manhattan and Brooklyn. In addition, Jeremy is a member of the band Spuyten Duyvil, and has performed with them at the Philly Folk Festival, in a week-long tour of Israel, and at countless other venues. Dan is especially excited that Jeremy is close to finishing his first full length album. Dan loves Jeremy's music (as only a father can) and suggests you check it out at JeremyAaron.com. As always with Dan, it is all about the kids.

Jeanne Gold: My husband Danny and I have sold our house and are now living in an apartment in Manhattan. We have always loved the city ... My dream has come true! Although retired, I continue to be involved in my profession at the state and national level. I am Awards Chair of the New York State Association of School Psychologists (NYASP). I also serve as a reviewer of graduate level school psychology programs applying for national accreditation and school psychologists seeking national certification through the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). Our kids are doing well. Heather is a first grade teacher living in Florida with her husband and our very grownup granddaughter Lindsay who will be 9 years old in November. Our son Matthew is a professor of English and the Digital Humanities at the CUNY Graduate

Center. He and his wife live in Manhattan with their two sons Felix (now 7 ..... who was born the day after I retired) and Ollie who is 4 years old. It is great to be close to them.

We are now in the Napa Valley and San Francisco nearing the end of a wonderful three week vacation in Hawaii and California.

Ann Schiminski: We have been busy with many issues and we purchased a new motor home and plan to head south to FL this winter again. I go to Club Fit several times a week and love to exercise to keep active and well.

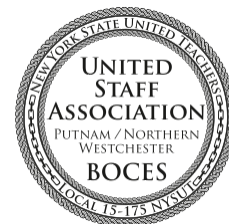
Ronnie Baimel: Jay and I went to NYC in July and spent 5 weeks in a studio apartment on the upper west side. We went to a number of museums, saw 12 Broadway shows, ate at many restaurants and spent time with our children, grandchildren and NY friends and family. From there we drove to Cape May and spent a week there with all the kids. It was our tenth summer renting the house across from the beach. Now we are back in Florida until next summer.

Perin Schneider: I have finally realized my dream. Have traveled across the country. Also traveled up into Canada and saw Banff National Park and Jasper. Traveled west to Vancouver and then down the western coast of the U.S. to San Francisco. Saw the Grand Canyon for the first time!! Spectacular!! Am now in Utah. Saw Zion and Bryce in the last week and am now on my way home. Will not put any of this on Facebook till I get home. Hope to get to Florida in January/February if I can get out of NY with the weather.

Laurie Lake Levine: Hi everyone. Wanted to let you know that Arthur and I are just fine. I'm working at a shelter and Arthur is at Red Cross headquarters.

Our retirees are always giving during Hurricane Matthew!!

Beth Maley, President of the Putnam Chorale, wants to invite all to a community sing along of the Messiah. December 4th at 2:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church in Brewster.



# Retiree News and Information

Pete Smith:

Arlene and I took the river cruise from Spokane to Portland. It was OK but we backed it up with a trip seeing "The Canadian Rockies" which basically was a bus tour that was outstanding. The only negative was that my brother Terry died on July 10th right in the middle of our trips. He taught English in Croton for many years beside coaching football, golf and lacrosse. He ended his teaching career at the Tech Center teaching the GED students. They are having a celebration of life/ memorial service for him at the Croton yacht club from 5-8 PM on Oct. 15th.

Friends from Pines Bridge went to Hershey PA to visit Helen Barhyte. Helen retired 30 years ago and is now near 90 years old and in independent living near her daughter, Denise, in PA.



Pictured: Kitty, Grace, Helen, Maryann, Linda, and Wynnie.

Carol Lockwood: All is well in Sarasota.

I sold my home in Danbury, CT last year and now I am in Sarasota full time. I went to NY / CT in June for one of my granddaughters graduation from high school. I had a great visit with friends and lots of dinners and lunches.

Met with a few nurses from Tech for lunch. I miss CT but love retirement in Florida. It was keeping in touch with everyone in the Northeast. Spent a week at Fishers Island with a nursing classmate in June. Many of my friends have been coming down here to experience the gulf and its beaches. The life here is so good. Lots to do and the weather is great. Keeping busy with a little golf, mah Jong, bridge, bowling, water aerobics, hiking, and swimming. Life is good.

Helen Vale retired teacher of the visually impaired and her niece, Grace Meyers former Teacher Aide Pines Bridge and NYC teacher now Here is the info on our trip: We leave here at 10:30 PM on Tuesday June 28 th via Etihad airline. We arrive in Entebbe, Uganda on 4:45 PM on June 30th. We will be meeting Gracie's friend, Christa Preston of an organization called

Embrace Kulture: <http://www.embracekulture.org/>

We are going on to Kampala for a day of celebrating disabilities then on to Jinja ... We will be staying at a convent guest house related to the St. Ursula Special School ... Gracie will be working at the school. I plan to spend my time at the Home of Hope. An orphanage for multiply handicapped children.

<http://www.homeofhopeuganda.org/meet-the-children>. I am hoping to introduce the concept of using cardboard to make adaptive equipment for these multiply handicapped children. I have been learning this at Adaptive Design Associates: <http://www.adaptivedesign.org/>The plan right now is to volunteer at St Ursula School and the Home of Hope until July 15 th. After that we are free to sight-see/go on a safari, etc. my flight home is set for 4:15AM on July 22nd Egypt Air from Entebbe

## In Memoriam...

We send sympathy to the families and friends of:

Susan Benson Ammann Black

Beloved wife and Mother passed away Saturday, August 6th with her loving husband Jeff and her sons, Steven and Michael by her side.

Sue was employed as a speech pathologist at Putnam/ Northern Westchester B.O.C.E.S. for a number of years prior to her tenure at Mahopac Central School District until her retirement in 2010. She participated in many workshops for therapists via the BOCES Teacher Center. Following her retirement, Sue volunteered at St. James the Apostle School delivering reading instruction for students in grades 1-8. Sue is survived by her loving husband Jeff, her twin sons Michael and Steven Ammann. Sue will be greatly missed!

Rick O'Keefe

It is with deep sympathy and support we send our thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of Rick O'Keefe. Rick passed away in his sleep in early September at 68 years old after a day of golf, a great dinner, coffee and a night cap while on vacation with his wife Ginny in Rhode Island. Ginny is a teacher aide in Walden and many know his sons Liam and Ryan as they worked at Boces at different times while they were in school. Rick played lots of golf with his fellow retirees Phil Ammann and Ed Fowler. He will be missed.

We try to include as much as possible from the retirees.

If you have news to share, please send it:

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



## 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	
Steve Lowery	Marie Russo
Nicole Murphy	Nate Ball
Csilla Mate/Sowul	Danielle Iammatteo <sup>(CLASS Transitions)</sup>
Csilla Mate/Pinesbridge	Lisa Giacomini-Essell
Csilla Mate/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 <a href="http://www.dhcook.com">www.dhcook.com</a>

## Upcoming Meetings

### Upcoming Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, November 1, 2016

3:00 P.M.

Pinesbridge Conference Room

### Upcoming General Membership Meeting

January 2017

Date TBD

3:00 P.M.

Walden Adult Dining Room



# A Bouquet from Us

## In Our Thoughts ...

Rick O'Keefe - Walden (former employee to BOCES) and Husband to Ginny Carlotti, (currently Walden) passed away

Bernadine Ordonez for the loss of her Father

Juan Miranda for the loss of his Mother

## Congratulations to...

Debbie Alix- a Grandmother to twin girls

Susan Collins-a Grandmother to a girl



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

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

## 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!

<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).

