

THE UNITED NEWSLETTER



LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

September 2014

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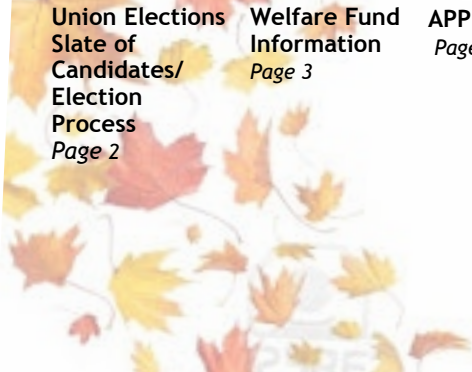
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From The Desk of the President:

Good day members:

This is an election year for our union. At the General Membership meeting this month, officers were nominated for the next term. The list of officers is included in this newsletter. Ballots will be mailed to each member by October 15th. I will be scheduling a General Membership meeting for October 7, 2014. The purpose of the meeting will be to conduct our regular union business and allow time for the nominees to address the

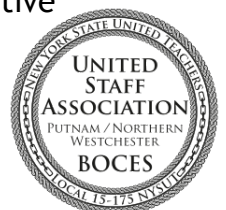
membership. We have an open position for a program representative chairperson. This is an appointed position; if you are interested please contact me at extension 477 or email me at dandreotti@pnwboces.org.

Your union leadership has been very involved in union seminars and training. This summer several members of the Executive Board attended a leadership conference in Parsippany, New Jersey. This conference was very informative and provided opportunities to network with other union leaders. There were many training classes and workshops all of which were found to be very relevant.

Our union's Regional Office in Tarrytown also offered training and several Program Representatives participated. Local events such as this offer our union a cost effective way of training our leadership.

I am very pleased with our current union leadership. They continue to amaze me with their desire to assist members and their willingness to work through any challenge. I look forward to seeing you at our October 7th meeting. Best of luck for a productive school year.

In Solidarity,
Doug Andreotti



Union Elections:



Slate of Candidates:

President: Doug Andreotti

Vice President for Special Education: Catherine Armisto

Vice President for Career and Technical Education: Stephanie Buckhout

Treasurer: Sharlene Bass

Secretary: Judy Gillet

Membership: Stacey Chiarella

Program Representative Chairperson: OPEN POSITION

Program Representatives:

Administrator

Jim Bellucci

Michael Sowul

Steve Lowery

Fred Santoli

Bob Keldershouse/Sowul

Bob Keldershouse(Pinesbridge)

Alisha Williams-McCorvey

Representative

Lisa Tobin

Lynn Ammann

Marie Russo

Nate Ball

Elisa Longo (CLASS Transistions)

Lisa Giacomini-Essell (Pinesbridge)

Margo Schepart

RA Delegates:

Larry Marino

Josephine Scala

Irene Snow (Alternate)

Election Process:

Ballots mailed out to membership by **October 15th**

November 7th= General Membership Meeting for counting ballots

Chairperson of Election Committee informs Secretary and President of results



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 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): \$2500 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 Coverage upon hire or within 30 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: \$350 for member per calendar year

\$250 for dependents (spouse, children) per calendar year

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Major Medical Deductible Reimbursement: \$135 per person up to \$405 maximum per family for members that have family health insurance coverage, thereafter 1% of deductible cost

Physical Exam Benefit: (member only) 1 in a 2 year period up to \$200 for portion not covered by BOCES medical plan/other health insurance plan, thereafter \$10 per physical exam

Psychiatric Benefit: (member only) \$30 per visit up to 55 visits per calendar year, thereafter, \$1.00/visit

Mammography Benefit: (member and/or spouse or domestic partner) 1 per calendar year up to \$100 for portion not covered by BOCES medical plan/other health insurance plan, thereafter, \$10 per mammogram

Hearing Aid (HA) Benefit: (member only) 1 in a 2 year period up to \$200, thereafter, \$10 for each additional HA

Medicare Part "B" Deductible Benefit: \$75 per calendar year, thereafter, 1% of all deductible costs

Orthotic Benefit: (member only) 1 in a 2 year period up to \$100; thereafter, 1% of the cost per orthotic

Variable Benefit: (member only) \$400 per calendar year to supplement the following benefits: Dental, Optical, Psychiatric, Orthotic, Hearing Aid, Catastrophic Premium

Shingles Vaccination Benefit: (member only) \$150 per injection within a calendar year

Claim forms can be obtained via the secured website – 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, 6th 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.

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.

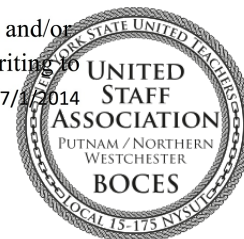
Certain legal service benefits are also extended to parents and/or parent-in-laws of covered members.

Consultations and select legal services are at no cost with very low fees for other covered benefits. The lawyer comes to BOCES to meet with members on the first Monday of each month during the school year.

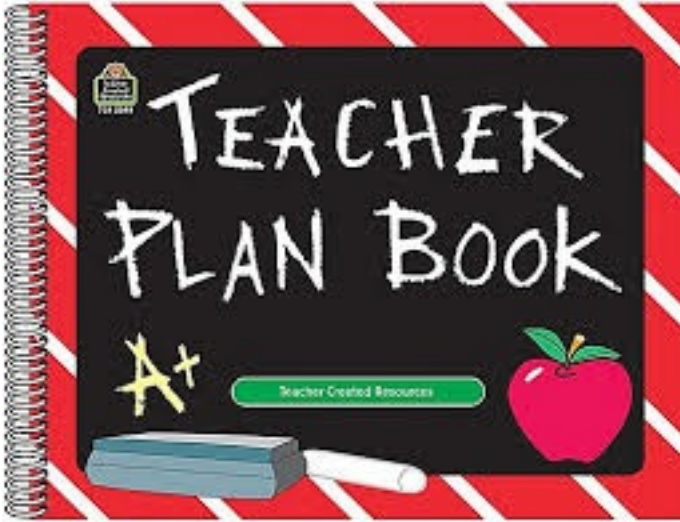
Call (914) 997-1576 to schedule an appointment. Legal fund website: www.teacherslegalfund.com

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



APPR News:



We worked with administration during the summer to decide on a new teacher plan book. The new plan book has a column that can be used to reflect on a particular lesson. This year, we are required, under Domain 4 (component a), to provide eight (8) reflections.

Teachers can use the column in the new plan book for these reflections. As always, do not forget to refer to the Danielson rubric when completing

your reflections. If you have not received the new plan book, please ask your administrator for one as soon as possible.

If you have not received your HEDI rating from last year, please let your program representative know. We are gathering this data so when we meet with the BOCES wide APPR committee we can address this concern, as well as others.



NYSUT Leadership Conference Reports:

NYSUT Conference in Parsippany, NJ
August 14-15, 2014

On August 14-15, 2014, I attended a very informative conference sponsored by NYSUT in Parsippany, NJ. The workshop "Basic Union Representation", which spanned both days, was extremely informative and applicable to my new role as Treasurer for our union local. J.R. Wilson, our own LRS, presented a great deal of information regarding the responsibilities of a union representative. I learned about contract rights, labor law rights, the Taylor Law, the grievance process and was given several case studies to hone my union representative skills. I have the materials that were provided and would be happy to share them with anyone interested. I would definitely recommend that anyone who is interested in becoming more involved with our union attend this workshop next summer!

Submitted by:
Sharlene Bass, Treasurer

2014 NYSUT Tarrytown Regional Office

Summer Leadership Conference

August 14/15, 2014

Hilton Parsippany Parsippany, New Jersey

The NYSUT Summer Leadership Conference held a wide range of informational workshops to better educate interested members in a wide range of ongoing issues facing educators, related school service personnel, and professionals in general in the current climate we are facing today. We are seeing unions under attack and a small population of financially powerful people are spending huge funds to spread misinformation and misconceptions of the working class in our country. The more factual information we can acquire, personally and professionally, puts us in a better place to communicate the true message: teaching staff and related school personnel work hard to serve and deliver our young people a quality education of the

highest caliber and rigor. I urge every person to keep abreast of the continued attacks and misinformation, which is being presented by the media and minority whom know little and have no real experience in working with students and school curriculum. We have become easy targets and by standing together we can stand up for our hard earned rights of due process and direct for the better the schools of the future.

I was fortunate to have the time to attend the NYSUT conference in August. I found the workshops very informative, and it presented a current view of the challenges we are facing. It pleases me to say that my personal feeling was that, although the work ahead will be significant, NYSUT is working to clear the hurdles which lay ahead and continue to direct, in a positive way, educational reform and direction.

The workshops I attended were: Think Before You Speak, They Cant Do That ... We have Past Practice!, Legal Update and Don't They Have to Bargain That? At the end of the conference I came away feeling better informed and knowledgeable. As we all know, things are constantly changing and keeping up with current laws, being aware of the issues, and following the evolving outcomes is a necessary investment needed to be made. Having been a teacher for over 35 years, I clearly remember the early days, working 2 or 3 jobs, and with the demands of a young family time was a commodity in very short supply. The reason I say this is that I fully understand family commitments and responsibilities are the primary duty for young staff, but if and when time permits becoming active, at any level, with union business serves not only the membership but ourselves. I wish everyone a safe and healthy school year.

Respectfully,

Al J. Cotoia

Negotiations Chairperson

Retiree News and Information:



Sandy Blackwell was honored by the Lower Hudson Valley chapter of the NY Civil Liberties Union . Sandy is a retired Special Education teacher from BOCES. She is the publisher of the Westchester County Press. It is the county's only African American Newspaper. Sandy is the vice chair of the Westchester Democratic Executive Committee and in the Black Woman's Political Cacus. Congratulations Sandy!

Linda Conte got together a table of BOCES friends to celebrate with Sandy. Dave Zurhellen, Annette Noto, Bill Broadnax, Kathy Bachelor, Dan Gottfreid, Paula Williams, Wynnie McCarthy, and John Keck celebrated with Sandy. John Keck and Sandy started together in Special Education at BOCES in 1968 on the same team in Verplank.

John Keck celebrated with friends the founding of Handicapped Encounter Christ retreat movement 40 years ago with a dinner dance and picnic. Friends attended from across the United States. Retreats are held locally at the Mariondale conference and retreat center in Ossining NY.

Jeanne McCabe, a retired Boces social worker, has a lead in this production of "I Do! I Do!" in Katonah.



Small Town Theater presents "I Do! I Do!"

September 26 · 27 · 8 PM
 Katonah Village Library Katonah
 October 10 · 11 · 8 PM
 The Hergenhan Center -Armonk
 General Admission \$20

http://www.smalltowntheatre.com/2014/09/26/i_do_i_do.html

Ronnie Bamiel has sold her home in Yorktown and moved to Deerfield Beach FL.

Helen Barhyte has moved to Assisted Living in Hersey PA.

Margaret Burgess has moved to a smaller apartment but is still in Winterhaven FL.

Since her husband Tom died in June, Terry Keegan has sold her condo in Peekskill, is heading to fl for the winter and plans to relocate in Jefferson Village.

Rick Devir and Barbara just got back from two weeks in the Caribbean - one in Puerto Rico and one on a cruise from San Juan to New York via Bermuda. The cruise lines engage Barbara to present informative talks (never say

"lectures") to her fellow passengers about Bermuda and other destinations, and in turn give her free passage. She is even allowed to bring a companion - me this time. Nice work if you can get it.

Pete Smith and Arlene just did a San Francisco and Napa Valley wine tour for a week and are going to New Zealand and Australia for three weeks starting Oct.29th.

Recent Deaths- Our Sympathy to:

Nancy Love Teacher Aide in Special Education in Walden and Pines Bridge LSB programs.

Wilma Poklemba Teacher Aide Walden and Alternate High School.

Ed Keon teacher in Tech Masonry and Drafting. Ed was one of the first trustees of the United Staff Association Welfare Fund and served as treasurer.

Leona Gilmore (later Minogue), who was a Teacher Aide in Special Education in the late 1960s and 1970s. She worked at Park Street School and Methodist Church in Peekskill and possibly some other locations.
<http://peekskill.dailyvoice.com/obituaries/leona-gilmore-minogue-87-librarian-formerly-peekskill>

Joan Goldberg, retired nurse from Walden and Chappaqua, died suddenly this summer. Joan was a private duty nurse at Pines Bridge in her last position. Many retired employees shared sympathy with her husband Arnie, daughter Kate, son-in-law Scott and grandson Luke. Kate has moved recently to Boston.



If you have news to share, please send it in.
 Wynnie McCarthy, wam48@aol.com or
 36 Cheshire Lane Yorktown, NY 10598.





BOCES Reunion (MARK YOUR CALENDAR!)

It's time for another Reunion of those BOCES folks who served during the sensational '60s, '70s and '80s, that period of unparalleled growth and influence of BOCES programs for the Putnam/No. Westchester local school districts. Other reunions we have held have been so good and I'm sure you all will want to join in this one!

Place: Traveler's Rest (Rte. 100, Millwood, NY. Tel. # 914-941-7744)

Date: Sunday, October 5, 2014, 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM

Cost: \$47/person, includes tax and gratuity. Send a check ASAP made out to **Traveler's Rest** to:
Ms. Flo Laicher
286 Dixon Rd.
Carmel, NY 10512

Drinks are separate - there will be a cash bar. Traveler's Rest will provide hors d'oeuvres. Soft drinks are included in the price.

We will gather at Traveler's Rest at 12:30 for cocktails, discussion and hors d'oeuvres. We will then be seated for our meal at 1:30PM. All the arrangements with Traveler's Rest have been made by Flo Laicher and we thank her for that!

Entree choices will be on a printed menu, served by the staff, and coffee and dessert will be served from a dessert cart. This is all similar to the 2012 gathering and the cost has increased only \$2.00 per person.

We must have a minimum number of 25 to have these costs maintained. Please send your check to Flo ASAP to assure her that you are committed to attending. She will continue to communicate with Traveler's Rest for us. She needs to hear from each of us immediately. If you have questions, Flo's E-mail address is pyrshire@comcast.net

Payment must be received by October 1, 2014 to hold your reservation. Cancellations must also be made by the first of October.

Reunion committee members: Ray DeFeo, Jack Carey, Wynnie McCarthy, George O'Brien, Flo Laicher, Mary Ann Alvord, Marsha Ben David and Wally Goodman.



Mark your calendar and mail your check to Flo! We look forward to seeing you!

Ray DeFeo



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	Sharlene Bass
Membership Chairperson	Stacey Chiarella
Grievance Chairperson	Carolyn Schneider
Negotiations Chairperson	Al Cotoia
Building Rep Chairperson	Judy Gillet

Program Representatives:

Administrator

Jim Bellucci
Michaael Sowul
Steve Lowery
Fred Santoli
Bob Keldershouse/Sowul
Bob Keldershouse(Pinesbridge)
Alisha Williams-McCorvey

Representative

Lisa Tobin
Lynn Ammann
Marie Russo
Nate Ball
Elisa Longo (CLASS Transitions)
Lisa Giacomini-Essell (Pinesbridge)
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 Meeting:

1st Tuesday of every month:
Tuesday, October 7, 2014

3:00 P.M.
Walden Adult Dining

Upcoming General Membership Meeting:

October 7, 2014
Candidate Contact

3:00 P.M.
Walden Adult Dining



A Bouquet from Us:

Congratulations to:

Jill Sarrica on her marriage to Carmine Boniello.

Matt Garrity and Jenn Guiffre on their marriage.



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

