

# THE UNITED NEWSLETTER



LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

September 2015

Know Your Contract: Workday Page 2	NYS Retirement System Information Page 3	Welfare Fund Information Page 4	NYSUT Professional Development Tarrytown Learning Center Page 8	New Employee Information/ APPR News and Information Page 9	Retiree News and Information Page 10	Contact Information/ Upcoming Meetings Page 13	Bouquet from Us/ Important Information Page 14
------------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	---	--	--------------------------------------	--	--

## From The Desk of the President:

Good Day Members:

Fall has arrived, and we are back to our regular work routine.

Since it is the beginning of the school year, I am reminded of a story that I wish to share with each of you, one that I hope you will find inspiring.

A new teacher, fresh from industry, had just started at BOCES. As this was their first day of school and while the Teacher knew the subject and was prepared to teach, they had never taught a class of teenagers before. As students arrived in class, and took their seats, the Teacher welcomed the students to the class and then suddenly froze, unable to decide what to do next. Luckily, a Teacher Assistant was also present. The Teacher Assistant, with many years of experience, recognized that the new Teacher was

overwhelmed, and instructed the students to complete attendance paperwork. While the students were engaged in that activity, it gave time for the Teacher to regain their composure and begin the lesson, without missing a beat. Talk about a lesson learned.

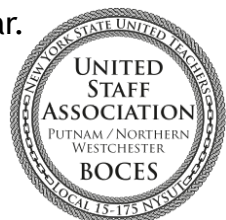
This is just one of many examples where senior members, without thinking twice, came to the aid of another member who needed help.

This personifies the true meaning of being a Union Member: watching each other's backs, helping where possible, resulting in a positive outcome for all.....a "Unity of Purpose".

I hope that you will seek out opportunities to help fellow members reach their full potential and by doing so, you will demonstrate the true meaning of being a Union Member.

I hope you have a great school year.

In solidarity,  
Doug Andreotti



# Know Your Contract:



## SECTION XXVI - WORKDAY (Contract pages 13-14)

A. Teachers - The workday for full-time teachers, guidance counselors, and school nurses will vary from building to building due to variations in programs provided by the Board and the need of the Board to adjust to the schedules of local schools not within its control.

The workday for career and technical education teachers shall be 7 hours that will include 45 minutes of prep time, 30 minutes of which will be uninterrupted, to be scheduled according to individual teaching assignments and an uninterrupted 30-minute lunch period each day.

All special education teachers assigned full time to one local school building shall have planning time in the course of each week, the scheduling of which shall vary from building to building but which shall in no event be less than two hours per week. Every effort shall be made to schedule such time over not less than two days. In addition, the Board agrees that it shall make every effort to provide each teacher with some planning time each day.

All special education teachers assigned full time to the Pines Bridge School shall have daily planning time of at least 30 minutes.

All special education teachers assigned full time to The Learning Center at Walden School and the Regional Alternative High School shall have weekly planning time of 2 1/2 hours. The Board will make a good faith effort to give such teachers 30 minutes of planning time each day. However, failure to provide 30 minutes each day shall not be arbitrable.

C. Clinical Personnel, School Nurses, and Licensed Practical Nurses - The workday for full-time psychologists, social workers, school nurses, and licensed practical nurses shall be 7 hours, including a duty-free lunch period of 30 minutes, except that the fulfillment of professional responsibilities may require additional time.

D. Teacher Aides and Bus Attendants - The workday for full-time teacher aides and bus attendants shall be 6 1/2 hours, including a duty-free lunch period of 30 minutes, except that the fulfillment of responsibilities such as staff meetings and parent conferences may require additional time, in conformity with Section XXVIII of this Agreement and practices in the various buildings.

E. Teaching Assistants and Adaptive Equipment Specialists - The workday for full-time teaching assistants and adaptive equipment specialists shall be 7 consecutive hours, including a duty-free lunch period of 30 minutes, except that the fulfillment of responsibilities such as staff meetings and parent conferences may require additional time, in conformity with Section XXVIII of this Agreement and practices in the various buildings.

G. Flexible Scheduling - A flexible schedule may be arranged for certain staff members, such as members of the clinical staff, whose job responsibilities include working during evening hours.

Staff members who require a flexible schedule must present the schedule to his or her supervisor at least one week in advance for approval.

### **What this means:**

**Work day varies by building. Please read the sections that apply to you and understand your duties.**

REMEMBER YOU CAN OBTAIN A COPY OF THE CURRENT CONTRACT ELECTRONICALLY  
OR A HARD COPY BY CONTACTING YOUR BUILDING REPRESENTATIVE.

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



# New York State Teacher Retirement System (NYSTRS) Report:

NYSUT Summer Leadership Conference August 2015

PNW NYTRS Delegate      Submitted by: Al J. Cotoia

The New York State United Teachers held their 3 day summer leadership conference in Parsippany, New Jersey. As you may be aware, currently there is a concerted effort to undermine and eliminate unions as a whole. It is clear that rich and powerful individuals, who for reasons you might suspect are funding politicians election funds that will promote a union busting agenda. This current attack and the move to eliminate the due process, negotiating workers rights, and the power that it holds is a threat to big business. In my humble opinion, greed and power are fueling the latest round of anti-union rhetoric.

Back to the summer conference, many valuable workshops were offered to attendee's, which ranged from Social Media and Communications to Saving Public Education. The presenters were NYSUT Labor relation specialists with a broad range of experience. Another benefit to attending conferences is that you can network with colleagues on issues we are facing, hear possible solutions they know of or have used and get a current understanding where the local districts are feeling pressure or seeing negative changes. I would say to anyone who is interested in serving as a union representative or building representative to invest the time and energy to attend training workshops, become aware of the political and NYSUT issues that are occurring and what is being done to solve those issues.

In closing, I wish every one a healthy productive school year. Be mindful of your health and stress management regularly. If you do not take care of yourself, how can you serve your students to the highest level you can? Finally, support your colleagues in the current times when teacher bashing is an easy avenue to pursue for the media and politicians. We need to positively reinforce each other. Stay well and the rest will follow.



# Welfare Fund Important Information:

## BENEFIT IMPROVEMENTS Effective July 1, 2015

- **Variable Benefit:** Increased from \$400 per calendar year to \$500 per calendar year for member only. Variable can be submitted at any time with a minimum claim of \$25.00
- **Dental Benefit:** Many increases to the allowed amounts to the Fee Schedule (pages 15-19 of your Benefit Booklet).
- **Dental Benefit:** Increase to the Maximum Annual Dental Benefit from \$2500 per calendar year to \$3000 per calendar year per covered person.

You should have received an updated green copy of the Benefit Booklet, including all the changes in your self-insured benefits from the Welfare Fund.

As always, the Trustees of the Fund are available as a resource via their BOCES email: [dwargula@pnwboces.org](mailto:dwargula@pnwboces.org), [dandreotti@pnwboces.org](mailto:dandreotti@pnwboces.org), [nfinsmith@pnwboces.org](mailto:nfinsmith@pnwboces.org), [dtrani@pnwboces.org](mailto:dtrani@pnwboces.org), [mpontbriand@pnwboces.org](mailto:mpontbriand@pnwboces.org), [jguiffre@pnwboces.org](mailto:jguiffre@pnwboces.org)

**Janine deGrouchy-Hraska** is the **Retiree Liaison** for the Welfare Fund. Janine is available by phone or email to assist retirees with their Welfare Fund claims and/or questions. She can be reached at [pnwboceswelfarefund@gmail.com](mailto:pnwboceswelfarefund@gmail.com) or by calling (845) 735-4683.





# 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 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 Coverage 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:** \$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

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

**Variable Benefit: (member only)** \$500 per calendar year to supplement the following benefits: Dental, Optical, Psychiatric, Orthotic, Hearing Aid, Catastrophic Premium

**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 lawyer comes to BOCES to meet with members on the first Monday of each month.**

**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

7/1/2015



# Welfare Fund Important Information:

## United Staff Association Welfare Fund

C/O Daniel H. Cook Associates, Inc.  
253 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10001  
914 – 250-0700

---

### Important Notice

From: Board of Trustees  
United Staff Association Welfare Fund  
To: All Participants  
RE: Dual Coverage – Primary Payers  
Date: July 2015

---

### If you are covered by two dental plans

When you are covered by two dental plans, this is called "dual coverage." This does not "double" your coverage. However, it may reduce your out-of-pocket costs.

Dual coverage works the same way whether you and your spouse are both covered by the United Staff Association Welfare Fund Dental Plan or by the USAWF Dental Plan and another insurance company. If you are the patient, the USAWF will **always** be your **primary payer**. You will then submit the explanation of benefits from USAWF to your secondary carrier for coordination of benefits. Please see below for a further explanation regarding your dependent children, if covered under the family dental plan.

### Which plan pays first

The plans set forth rules to determine which plan pays first, ("primary") and which plan pays afterwards ("secondary"). The general rule is that the plan that covers you as an enrollee is the primary plan and the plan which covers you as a dependent is the secondary plan.

For your children's coverage, generally the primary insurance company is determined by the birthday rule (i.e., coverage of the parent whose birthday —month and day, not year — comes first in the year is considered to be your children's primary coverage). A divorce agreement or other court ruling may supersede the birthday rule.

Dual coverage saves money for you and your group by sharing the total cost of dental benefits between two carriers. The Board of Trustees of the United Staff Association Welfare Fund continues to contain costs and make improvements to your dental plan.





# Welfare Fund Important Information:



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.**

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION : LEGAL SERVICES FUND**

Some of our members have had unsatisfactory experiences with our Legal Fund. In an effort to get our members legal needs met, Alicia Forrest, the Executive Director of Mirkin & Gordon, would like our membership to have her email and cell phone number to be utilized **if a member is not satisfied with the Legal Fund.** If preferred, a member can reach out to a Trustee of the Fund who can follow up with Alicia. Alicia consistently resolves any issues with the Legal Fund promptly. **Alicia Forrest should ONLY be contacted if you are not satisfied with your experience with the Legal Fund. She should not be contacted for appointments or any other Welfare Fund matters.**



Alicia P. Forrest, Executive Director  
[afortrest@mirkingordon.com](mailto:afortrest@mirkingordon.com)

Mirkin & Gordon, P.C.  
98 Cuttermill Road, Suite 310N  
Great Neck, NY 11021

Cell phone (516) 972-8130

The trustees of the Welfare Fund are available as a resource and can be reached at their BOCES email: Dawn Wargula, Nancy Finsmith, Jenn Guiffre, Doreen Trani, Maria Pontbriand, and Doug Andreotti.



# NYSUT Professional Development at Tarrytown Learning Center (TLC)

Last year, the NYSUT Tarrytown Regional Office started a program offering professional development for teachers and school related professionals. The Tarrytown Learning Center (TLC) offered more than 30 seminars in areas ranging from classroom management to strategies for English language learners. The TLC is a series of seminars, created and presented by your peers and through the NYSUT Education and Learning Trust, to inform and educate teachers and SRPs.

The 2015-2016 version of the Tarrytown Learning Center will take professional development to the next level. **The most significant change is the inclusion of all of the seminars in My Learning Plan.** This will allow participants to register under their account for My Learning Plan and have the hours included in the required hours to maintain certification. You should check with your professional development coordinator to ensure that the hours will count as this may vary by district. Another change this year is the addition of training locations in Rockland and Orange Counties. Through the assistance of the Rockland County Teacher Center Institute, we have scheduled sessions at North Rockland High School and Monroe-Woodbury High School. In the interest of making this accessible to all of your members, we are continuing with the \$10 registration fee, an amount significantly lower than the \$800 it would cost you or your district to offer the same programs.

Brochure for the 2015-2016 Tarrytown Learning Center: [www.nysut.org/elt](http://www.nysut.org/elt)

## **FAQ SHEET:**

**Q:** Can these sessions be applied to district professional development requirements or count toward salary differential?

**A:** When you register under your district MLP account, your request is sent to the district MLP administrator for approval. As for salary differential, that will depend on contract negotiations. Talk to your building rep if you are unsure about how that works in your district.

**Q:** Where and how do I register?

**A:** There are 2 ways to register. You can use the link: <http://tinyurl.com/npr7jok> and follow the directions or you can go the NYSUT Education & Learning Trust's website [www.nysut.org/elt](http://www.nysut.org/elt), click on **MyLearningPlan**. Under Advanced Search Options and under Category, choose Tarrytown Learning Center. All upcoming seminars will be listed. Click on the title of the seminar you wish to register for. Click enroll. If you don't have an MLP account, you will need to create one. If you do, you will need to login. Follow the directions and give your credit card for payment.

**Q:** How much do the sessions cost?

**A:** The 2-, 3-, and 6-hour sessions are \$10 each. The 15 hour Peer Coaching training is \$50.

**Q:** If my district is willing to pay for this, can I pay with a district purchase order?

**A:** The only option for payment is a credit card. You may submit your paid receipt to the district for reimbursement. Talk to someone in your district about how that would happen if this is an option.

**Q:** What happens if I cancel my registration?

**A:** If you cancel prior to the start time of the (first) session, your credit card will be refunded. If you cancel after the session has started, your \$10 will not be refunded.

**Q:** Will I receive a certificate at the completion of the training?

**A:** Yes, provided you attend the entire session.

**Q:** How do I get my certificate?

**A:** After the training ends, you will be asked to fill out an online evaluation through **MyLearningPlan**. Once that has been completed, ELT will mark you as "complete". A certificate can be printed out from MLP one week after the training ends.

**Q:** Will these seminars be canceled if there are only a few participants?

**A:** Yes, there is a minimum number of registrant required for the training to run. The good news is that the decision to cancel a session will be made on case-by-case basis.





# New Employees and APPR Information:

## Attention: New Employees:

If you are a New Employee at Putnam Northern Westchester BOCES please contact Stacey Chiarella at Fox Meadow High School, either at 914-248-3647 or at schiarella@pnwboces.org so that you can join our union. Stacey is the contact person to become a member.

Also, if members know new employees are NOT in the union, please let them know how to contact Stacey Chiarella.



## APPR News and Information :

We are still following APPR guidelines from previous years until the new APPR guidelines are negotiated.

Monthly APPR committee meetings have been scheduled during the 2015-2016 school year.

**It is anticipated that a waiver will be granted this year, so the APPR guidelines will be the same as in the past.**

The committee has met twice this year and are moving forward with the BOCES administration to develop a reasonable APPR evaluation system.

**DON'T FORGET** about Domain 4; it is never too early to start gathering your information and artifacts!





## Retiree News and Information:

Lenore Wittrock was up from Florida to her place in Heritage Hills and joined Beth Maley, Barbara and Art Burnap and Wynnie McCarthy for lunch at La Fontaine in Somers. Her husband, Rudy, was not able to make trip north and they have been grieving the passing of his daughter in England this spring. The Burnaps took a wonderful trip to China this spring and Barbara has written it up and we will share it.

Maryann Alvord had a great trip to Cuba this summer and many of us look forward to seeing her photos and hearing of her trip. Word has it she may have land for a work service trip in the future.

John Keck and Susie had a family reunion trip to the Philippines lots of rain and plenty of celebrations. John continued with his family with a reunion and birthday celebration in Ohio and Yorktown .

John Keck and Adrienne Forbes took a trip up to Lenox MA to see retiree Ruth Woolfe. At 92, Ruth still swims and plays tennis in the Berkshires in summer and Boca Raton FL in the winter.

Rita Wolfson is still in Longboat Key, Florida, but has moved to an apartment as she is not driving.

The Forbes, the Hellers , Linda Bonavist and Marsha Bendavid are off on the cruise of a lifetime from Vancouver to Australia with stops in Hawaii , Borra Borra, and lots of other places. Linda writes a great travel update daily on her vacations, and it is very interesting. Contact her to get on her list.

Micky Danko had a wonderful trip out west and shared many photos on Facebook. She has been around the country to see her children and grandchildren and now she awaits two more grandchildren as her daughters here are both expecting second children.

Annie Gullen is off to Colorado to see her new grandson Jack, the second grandchild born this summer. Annie plans to visit retiree Cindy Flynn, who just retired and moved near Colorado Springs this summer. Cindy is living near her son and grandchildren in Colorado .

Ruby Whitman had a fabulous trip to Southern France with her daughter, son in law, and son and loved the experience of village life in paradise. She took the train to Milan and just loved the trip to Lake Como.



Marion and Ken Connelly ,Gay O'Brien and Wynnie Mccarthy are leaving in late September for a cruise on the Rhine from Amsterdam to Germany . Olga LaBoy is taking another river trip from Basel to Amsterdam .

Rosemary Bell has taken a trip to Washington and Williamsburg with her family and plans a getaway to Quebec in September.

Judith Gillespie reunited with family this summer in Ohio; she continues find out more about her family. Her granddaughters are growing up fast also in Ohio.

Judith and Bruce have relocated to Boca Raton, Florida.

Vito Rinaldo celebrated his 50th high school reunion in Buffalo. From all reports he had a great time even though the school has closed.

Marion Connelly had her 50th high school reunion at Mohonk Mountain House in New Paltz. This is another beautiful spot in the Hudson Valley.

Debbie Alberga celebrated her retirement with family vacations to their place at the beach in Rhode Island and a trip to Costa Rica . They have moved to Danbury Connecticut.

Linda Frankenberry and Ginny Russell took a road trip to Hershey PA to see Helen Barhyte. Helen has moved to assisted living near her daughter and hopes to reconnect with former neighbor and Walden Aide, Mary Grey. We have been able to contact Mary's daughter in Fishkill.

Bill Broadnax celebrated with many friends his 80th birthday and we happy to see that he is feeling well after a setback this spring in Michigan . Bill hears from Frank Sink. He is doing well living in Washington DC and entertaining many of his fellow residents with his piano concerts in the lobby of his building.

Rich Devir celebrated his birthday and he has the opportunity to travel with his wife when she lectures on a couple of cruises a year.

Bill, Rich, Holly Austin, Wynnie and Jack Carey reunited for a summer lunch at Shadows on the Hudson. It is a beautiful spot on the river in Poughkeepsie worth a visit if you have not been up the river.

Heard from Dan Banford he gets together with Kevin Lyall occasionally for breakfast. Both live up in Rhinebeck/Red Hook area.



# Retiree News and Information: continued from page 9

RitaDeMaria has sold her condo in Fishkill, recovered from a knee surgery, and still swims everyday. Rita and a few family members are off to Ireland for a vacation then to Portugal to visit her sister at her guest house on the Algrave Region. She has plans to visit BOCES retiree and childhood friend, Phyllis Jakubowski this winter. Phyllis is moving from Shaftesbury VT to Charlotte, NC.

Barbara Burnap reports on her trip to China:

Beijing.....3 nights...highlights were the Summer Palace, Tiananmen Square, Forbidden City, Temple of Heaven, Emperor's Palace which I loved and the Imperial Gardens! Went to a Beijing Opera, We visited a Cloisonné factory and a Pearl Factory....hard to resist buying them out! We enjoyed a rickshaw ride through the old part of Beijing, the Hutong area. We next toured the Great Wall. We saw the Ming tombs and then toured a Jade factory. We next flew to Xian for the amazing Terra Cotta Warrior site. The expanse of the 3 pits is utterly jaw dropping. The Tang Dynasty dance show and a Dumpling banquet... we must have eaten 20 varieties of dumplings!

Next flight was to Chongqing, where we visited a local zoo to see the famous giant pandas! Later we boarded the ship for a 5 night cruise on the Yangtze River. This was my favorite part of the trip! We made several stops along the Yangtze. In Shibaozhai we climbed the 99 wooden steps of the 500 year old Red Pagoda, know as the Precious Stone Fortress.

The tour of the Three Gorges Dam and the 5 stages of locks was fascinating... I recall that we must have taken about 7 escalators to reach the top of the dam and each escalator was about 3 times as long/high as the average store escalator! The next stop was at Jingzhou, where our cruise ended. It is a poorer area and a welcome change from all the skyscrapers and construction in Beijing, Xian and Chongqing. The old city is a walled city and the wall was walkable. We drove to Wuhan where we boarded our flight to Shanghai. Our final destination was Shanghai. Despite the fact that car licenses cost about \$30,000, it is amazing to see so many on the roads. And I never saw an old vehicle! There are some electric bikes now so that is a good sign. But some old world costumes remain, since we saw a lady carrying a chamber pot. on a side street!

A few new foods that I tried were marinated lotus root....famous Wuhan lotus root.....quite good... congee of a few different varieties, kumquats, Red Bean yogurt, and some veggies I probably will never see again! I sampled about 3 or 4 different varieties of Chinese beer ...all were delicious! We danced to the very popular Chinese song translated as "The Little Apple" while on the cruise and we heard this at a local amusement park also.

All in all we had great weather. It was a bit warmer in general than here in Yonkers and not as polluted until we arrived in Shanghai.

It was very interesting to learn that English is still not widely spoken in that part of the world. Even some of their translations made us smile.....eg. Carefully slip... (Fortunately both Art and I were careful!)

Barbara Burnap

April 7-21, 2015

## In Our Thoughts...

**The following retirees have passed this year:**

- Irwin Bitter (9.17.2015)
- Margaret Burgess (86)
- Dan Cardinale (85)
- Bill Herrman (85)
- Cecil Mac McFarland (84)
- Lenny Tuder(84)



Joyce Vitulli tells us her husband died in March. She continues to live in NJ and plans to visit her sister in Washington state. Joyce is in contact with DJ Hirsch, deceased retiree Ann Hirsch's daughter and former BOCES student.

We extend our sympathy to Harrison Peyera, the late Lola Smerdon's son, on the death of his father Al. Harrison is a senior at Fairfield University.

We hope Sue Bednar is feeling better after a long siege with a partial knee replacement and second revision surgery.

Barbara Sinnott has had a long rehab with surgery and therapy with a recent fall.

We are happy to hear Fred Maley is doing better and continuing independent training and mobility.





# Retiree News and Information: continued from page 9



Cindy, Ruby, Sara, Lorraine, Carol, Ellen, and Paula at USA Union Retirement Party.



Paula, Sara, and Ruby at USA Union Retirement Party.



## Retirees Celebrating!

Congratulations to our retirees!



**Retirees in 2015:** Debra Alberga, Ellen Astorino, Paula Jeter-Williams, Sara Mills-Cohen, Cynthia Flynn, Mary Jo Kramer, Carol Story, Lorraine Swiatocha, Ruby Whitman!



Bill, Paula and Sandy at Paula's Party!



Lunch at *Shadows!*  
Back Row: Jack, Holly, Maggie (a friend) and Wynnie.

Front Row: Bill and Rich





## 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 Chairperson	Al Cotoia
Program Rep Chairperson	Magaly Almonte

### Program Representatives:

Administrator	Representative
Jim Bellucci	Lisa Tobin
Michael Sowul	Lynn Ammann
Steve Lowery	Marie Russo
Fredericka Butler	Nate Ball
Bob Kelderhouse/Sowul	Elisa Longo (CLASS Transitions)
Bob Kelderhouse/Pinesbridge	Lisa Giocomini-Essell
Bob Kelderhouse/Pinesbridge	Deirdre Toolan
Patricia Johnson	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:	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 (914) 250-0700 FAX (212) 714-1455 <a href="http://www.dhcook.com">www.dhcook.com</a>

## Upcoming Meetings:

### Upcoming Executive Board Meetings:

Tuesday, October 13, 2015  
3:00 P.M.  
Pinesbridge Conference Room

### Upcoming General Membership Meeting:

To Be Determined



## A Bouquet from Us:

### Congratulations to...

Greg Dinsmore on the birth of his daughter

Brooke Chapman on the birth of her son.

### In our thoughts..

Marie Russo for a speedy recovery.



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

