

# THE UNITED NEWSLETTER

LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

June 2018

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## From the Desk of the President

Good Day Members,

I hope this note finds you well.

The countdown to another school year is rapidly coming to a close.

I'm sure you will agree, this time of the year is always the most hectic and at times, can be stressful, as we prepare for final exams and winding down the instructional school year.

Anticipation grows as we look forward to our Summer Recess, vacations and new experiences. Some of us are also preparing for the Extended School Year Programs and Summer Camps.

All of these activities can certainly add another notch to our level of stress.

As I reflect back on numerous situations throughout this school year, "stress" definitely comes to my mind as the operative word.

Throughout our school year, Mother Nature tossed quite a few storms in our direction, along with dealing with unexpected power failures, it felt like we could not catch our breath. Especially when the cadence of our usual recesses did not occur when scheduled.

I know that you have experienced not only these situations, but other adverse and demanding circumstances.

Once our school year ends, **it is important that you take time for yourself** to decompress, try to relax and recharge, as whether we like it or not, stress is our body's way of responding to any kind of demand (caused by good and bad experiences).

Thank you for being such a valued Union Member and I hope you have an awesome Summer!!!

In Solidarity,

Doug Andreotti



# Sick Bank

What is the Sick Bank?

- Used for a period of time an employee is off of payroll due to a long term illness and the recovery period.

What is it NOT used for?

- It is not used for sick days such as the flu
- if an employee has previously exhausted their sick balance.

What next?

- Review your contract.
- View your balances and absences in AESOP only.

How to enter absences?

- All absences have to be entered into AESOP and if the employee is unable to or forgets to do so they need to contact their main office, as well as, email Lisa Perrone at [lperrone@pnwboces.org](mailto:lperrone@pnwboces.org) so it can manually be entered it into AESOP.
- Missed absences mainly happen in the LSBs.



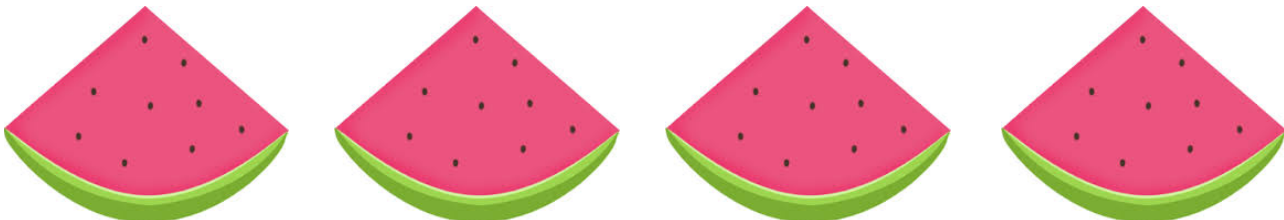
# USA Welfare Fund: Legal Services Benefit

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.**



# USA Welfare Fund Information

## IMPORTANT WELFARE FUND INFORMATION To All Active Members of the United Staff Association


All members of the United Staff Association Welfare Fund who work over 15 hours per week are eligible for life insurance coverage on the first day of the first month following Board appointment. The benefit is 100% of your salary rounded to the next higher \$1,000. The minimum coverage is \$5,000 and maximum coverage is \$150,000.

Any questions or concerns, contact our Customer Service Rep - Nicole Werner, at the Fund Office (914)250-0700 extension 231.

Attached is detailed information on the life insurance benefit and a beneficiary designation form if needed. If you are updating your beneficiaries, mail completed form to :

**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, New York 10001

Nicole Werner at Daniel H. Cook Associates is the client representative specific to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund for dental and optical claims. She is the point of contact for active, retired, and COBRA members. Should any issues arise pertaining to your claims, eligibility and/or COBRA/Retiree payments, please send an email to Nicole at [nwerner@dhcook.com](mailto:nwerner@dhcook.com) or you can reach her at 914-250-0700 extension 231.

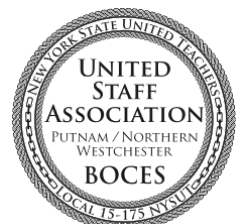


Nicole and Paige at Daniel H. Cook Associates are the client representatives specific to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund. They are the point of contact for active, retired, and COBRA members. Should any issues arise pertaining to your claims, eligibility and/or COBRA/Retiree payments, please send an email to Nicole or Paige.

Their contact information is as follows:

Nicole Werner  
[nwerner@dhcook.com](mailto:nwerner@dhcook.com)  
914-250-0700, extension 231

Paige Law  
[plaw@dhcook.com](mailto:plaw@dhcook.com)  
914-250-0700, extension 439



## Congratulations to the Retirees



Adrienne Almstead

Michele Bergmann

LeeAnne Damin

Nancy Finsmith

Elisa Longo

Cristina Lucci

Edward Miraglia

Doreen Poulin

Nicole Riche

Deborah Scandalis

Roberta Trotta



RETIREMENT



# Message from HR: Changes in PNW Health Benefits Consortium



Putnam | Northern Westchester  
 BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES  
 200 BOCES Drive  
 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598-4399  
 (914) 248-2306 FAX (914) 248-3626  
 E-MAIL: mskerritt@pnwboces.org

**Michael Skerritt**

*Director of Human Resources & Professional Development*

**Memorandum**

**TO:** United Staff Association (USA) Employees  
**FROM:** Mike Skerritt *MS*  
**DATE:** May 22, 2018  
**SUBJECT:** New Health Insurance Tier (2018-2019)

As you may be aware, in the April 2018 edition of the PNW Health Benefits Consortium newsletter (attached), it was announced that effective July 1, 2018, the Joint Governance Board was authorizing a move from a 4-Tier to 5-Tier rate structure. This change was made in an effort to make health insurance contribution rates more equitable for those utilizing the plan. In short, an Employee/Retiree + 1 tier was added to the traditional Single/Individual and Family plan options. The two Medicare primary options remained in place. Please see the chart below for the premium and employee contribution rates that will be in effect for USA members for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

Tier	Annual Premium Rate	Group A* Employee Contribution	Group B** Employee Contribution	Group C*** Employee Contribution
Single/Individual <i>(Non-Medicare)</i>	\$9,096	\$1,318.92	\$1,091.52	\$841.38
Employee/Retiree + 1 <i>(Non-Medicare)</i>	\$21,936	\$3,180.72	\$2,632.32	\$2,029.08
Family <i>(Non-Medicare)</i>	\$23,748	\$3,443.46	\$2,849.76	\$2,196.69
Single/Individual <i>(Medicare Primary)</i>	\$8,172	N/A	N/A	N/A
Couple <i>(Medicare Primary)</i>	\$17,172	N/A	N/A	N/A

Participants that previously had a two person family plan will automatically be moved to the Employee/Retiree + 1 tier option. This will result in a savings to the employee. Similarly, those employees that had previously exercised the health insurance opt-out provision which paid them 20% of the savings to the Board, will have their payments adjusted accordingly. In particular, given that a family plan will now be available only to those employees covering 3 or more lives, employees now eligible for Employee/Retiree +1 coverage only, will receive payment commensurate with this tier. Please see the chart below for a full listing of opt-out payments by employee group.

BEDFORD BREWSTER BRIARCLIFF CARMEL CHAPPAQUA CROTON-HARMON GARRISON HALDANE HENDRICK HUDSON  
 KATONAH-LEWISBORO LAKELAND MAHOPAC NORTH SALEM OSSINING PEEKSKILL PUTNAM VALLEY SOMERS YORKTOWN





**Putnam | Northern Westchester**  
**BOARD OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**  
 200 BOCES Drive  
 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598-4399  
 (914) 248-2306 FAX (914) 248-3626  
 E-MAIL: mskerritt@pnwboces.org

**Michael Skerritt**  
 Director of Human Resources & Professional Development

Tier	Annual Premium Rate	Group A* Opt-Out Payment	Group B** Opt-Out Payment	Group C*** Opt-Out Payment
Single/Individual <i>(Non-Medicare)</i>	\$9,096	\$1,555.42	\$1,600.90	\$1,650.92
Employee/Retiree + 1 <i>(Non-Medicare)</i>	\$21,936	\$3,751.06	\$3,860.74	\$3,981.38
Family <i>(Non-Medicare)</i>	\$23,748	\$4,060.91	\$4,179.65	\$4,310.26
Single/Individual <i>(Medicare Primary)</i>	\$8,172	N/A	N/A	N/A
Couple <i>(Medicare Primary)</i>	\$17,172	N/A	N/A	N/A

Given the aforementioned changes to the structure of our health plan, we will be offering a one-time open enrollment period from June 1 through June 30<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to make a change, please contact Hallie Hirsch at 914-248-2313 or via email at [HHirsch@pnwboces.org](mailto:HHirsch@pnwboces.org) by June 30<sup>th</sup>. All requested changes will become effective July 1, 2018.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like any other information.

Enclosure

- \*Group A: Employees paid on the certificated salary schedule (including OTs & PTs)
- \*Group B: Teaching Assistants, School Nurses, Practical Nurses, Recreation Specialists, Lifeguards, and Therapy Assistants
- \*Group C: Full-time Teacher Aides and Bus attendants

BEDFORD BREWSTER BRIARCLIFF CARMEL CHAPPAQUA CROTON-HARMON GARRISON HALDANE HENDRICK HUDSON  
 KATONAH-LEWISBORO LAKELAND MAHOPAC NORTH SALEM OSSINING PEEKSKILL PUTNAM VALLEY SOMERS YORKTOWN



# UNITED STAFF ASSOCIATION UNION MEETING

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 14, 2018  
2:30 P.M.

**WHERE:** Travelers Rest  
25 Saw Mill River Road  
Ossining, N.Y.

**RSVP:** Karen Carey  
[kcarey@pnwboces.org](mailto:kcarey@pnwboces.org)  
by 6/4/18

**HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!!!!**



Directions to Travelers Rest: <https://www.travelersrestrestaurant.com>





# USA Welfare Fund Retiree Option Plan

## United Staff Association Information for June Retirees

### RETIREES OPTION PLAN USA Welfare Fund Benefits

Welfare Fund Benefits which are otherwise available to active members may be continued into retirement for those individuals who have been a member of the United Staff Association, Local 3072 prior to retirement and who continue to maintain their membership as a retiree, and who remit the self-pay cost of continuing Welfare Fund benefits, to the Fund, on a timely basis.

Life Insurance and Long Term Disability Insurance are not available under the retirees' option plan.

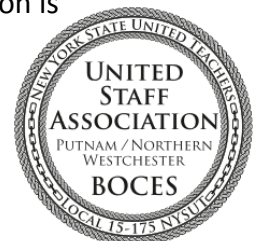
Legal Fund benefits may be continued as an additional elective.

- You must maintain your USA membership as a retiree to be eligible for Welfare Fund benefits in retirement.
- USA membership is \$15.00 annually: for questions regarding USA membership in retirement, please contact Sharlene Orlowsky, Treasurer of USA, at her BOCES email: [sorlowsky@pnwboces.org](mailto:sorlowsky@pnwboces.org). – you should receive a notice in December 2018 for your 2019 membership dues.
- USA Welfare Fund self-pay cost is \$60.00 per month for INDIVIDUAL dental benefits (dental/optical/variable) and \$150.00 per month for FAMILY DENTAL in retirement. You can pay however you like; at least 6 months contribution is preferred; however, you can pay each month or once a year.
- To continue the Legal Fund benefit in retirement, the cost is \$90 annually.

Upon receiving notification from BOCES of your retirement, Daniel H. Cook (the Welfare Fund Administrator) will send you a Retirees Option Letter. This letter should be returned to Cook ASAP. You may not receive this letter until late July or August- depending on the notification from BOCES about your retirement. The monthly contributions are payable to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund, 253 West 35<sup>th</sup> Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, New York, NY 10001

Nicole Werner at Daniel H. Cook Associates is the client representative specific to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund for dental and optical claims. She is the point of contact for active, retired, and COBRA members. Should any issues arise pertaining to your claims, eligibility and/or COBRA/Retiree payments, please send an email to Nicole at [nwerner@dhcook.com](mailto:nwerner@dhcook.com) or you can reach her at 914-250-0700 extension 231.

If you would like to receive general retiree information or news, please email retired member, Winnie McCarthy, at [wam48@aol.com](mailto:wam48@aol.com) and she will add you to her contact list. The United Staff Association is interested in hearing about your experiences in retirement to post in The United Newsletter. Send your news to Winnie McCarthy at [wam48@aol.com](mailto:wam48@aol.com) or call her at (914) 245-8353.



# USA Welfare Fund Retiree Healthcare

It has come to our attention that retirees may not be getting the proper reimbursement for the Medicare Part B premium.

Retirees should contact Hallie Hirsch immediately at 914-248-2313 or [hhirsch@pnwboces.org](mailto:hhirsch@pnwboces.org) and send her the required paperwork from their most recent Social Security statement, typically dated sometime in November of 2017.

The first page of that statement shows not only your Social Security monthly benefit, but also the amount being deducted for the basic Medicare Part B coverage. Retirees are entitled to be reimbursed for that deduction and receive a check/direct deposit quarterly.

It is very likely you did not receive the correct amount for the first quarter of 2018, so every retiree should submit proof of their payment ASAP so this can be corrected before the next quarterly payment at the end of June 2018.



# Retiree News

Bill Broadnax, Retired Walden librarian and Jack Carey retired BOCES administrator at the Ossining library celebrating Bill's 50 years of service to the library system and Ossining community. Thank you Bill and congratulations. A celebration of Bill's 50 year career at the Ossining Public Library occurred in April.



Cindy Flynn- has been participating in the senior olympics in swimming in Colorado.

Perrin Schneider- I just got back from being on the road. ( new camper) for 8 weeks. Florida for the first time during the winter.....that was beyond my expectations: Warm, Green and Sunny!!! It was fantastic!! Was on the pan handle, Destin, Panama City and then I traveled to Bushnell, Fl. (Tornado Warnings, had my two camping buddies, myself and Nellie the dog safe in the recreation building). Then I had the time of my life visiting "The Villages" WOW what a place! I reconnected with friends I had not seen for 50 years ( my neighbors from "da Bronx"). Then off to GA, TN, VA (wind warnings) and finally home. I missed all the snow storms but felt so bad for everyone around here with the power outages. Ah don't worry, I was monitoring power outages on NYSEG and school closings on WHUD. It was another awesome adventure visiting with friends, family and meeting new camping friends along the way. As always, thank you to the Lord for protecting me and being my co-pilot. He is so faithful.

Pete Smith -had surgery on achilles tendon in March and on the DL for 3-4 months. Arlene and I plan a trip to Normany-Paris in June and have a trip planned on a Mississippi River Cruise in August. Still loving the Villages!

Rich Devir-Sweet are the uses of adversity, especially in Cuba. Our 50 +year trade boycott encouraged locals to hang on to their old cars, eventually creating considerable wealth. Owners can now do a

premium for rides in these beauties, some of which are old enough tot be receiving social security. Hoping car fans (especially John and Bill M) will guess the makes and years of these samples. I've blocked the brand names when they're showing. Theres one clinker; Make? Country of origin?

Barbara and Art Burnap continue the Slavic traditions of her family in Yonkers. Barbara and her sister Janice have passed the egg decorations and ethnic cooking of their grandparents.



## Retiree Sympathy

We extend our Sympathy to the family members and friends of deceased USA member:

Berta Endriss- retired teacher aide Walden

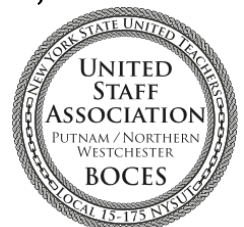


We try to include as much as possible from the retirees.

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 (Special Education)	Elisa Longo
2nd Vice President (CTE)	Stephanie Buckhout
Secretary	Judy Gillet
Treasurer	Sharlene Orlowsky
Membership Chairperson	Stacey Chiarella
Grievance Co-Chairperson (Special Education)	Lisa Giacomini-Essell
Grievance Co-Chairperson (CTE)	Larry Marino
Negotiations Chairperson	Al Cotoia
Program Rep Chairperson	Magaly Almonte

### Program Representatives

#### Administrator

Jim Bellucci  
Michael Sowul  
Steve Lowery  
Nicole Murphy  
Csilla Mate/Michael Sowul  
Csilla Mate/Pinesbridge  
Csilla Mate/Pinesbridge  
Lisa Hammel  
RSE/TASC/Patti Slobogin

#### Representative

Lisa Tobin  
  
Marie Russo  
Nate Ball  
Danielle Iammatteo (CLASS Transitions)  
  
Deirdre Toolan  
Margo Schepart  
John Boniello

## 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:	Deirdre Toolan
Treasurer:	Doreen Trani
Trustees:	Jenn Guiffre Doug Andreotti
Alternate Trustee:	Maria Pontbriand
Retiree Contact:	pnwboceswelfarefund@gmail.com
Consultant:	Flo Laicher
Administrator:	Daniel Cook Associates www.dhcook.com
Contact for USA members and Retirees:	Nicole Werner nwerner@dhcook.com (914) 250-0700, EXT 231
Legal Fund:	(914) 997-1576 <a href="http://www.teacherslegalfund.com">www.teacherslegalfund.com</a>

## Upcoming Meetings

### Upcoming Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 5, 2018

3:00 P.M.  
Pinesbridge Conference Room

### Upcoming General Membership Meeting

Thursday, June 14, 2018  
3:00 P.M.

Travelers Rest Restaurant  
Refreshments will be available



# A Bouquet from Us

## Congratulations to...

Nicole Galderisi - birth of daughter  
Rebecca Roper-Eckstein-birth of daughter  
Jenna Longobardi - birth of son.



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:

Grievance Co-Chairpersons are:

Larry Marino (CTE)

[lmario@pnwboces.org](mailto:lmario@pnwboces.org) (914) 248-2480 (ext.480).

Lisa Giacomini-Essell (Special Education)

[ligiacomini-essell@pnwboces.org](mailto:ligiacomini-essell@pnwboces.org) (914)248-2264 (ext. 264)

## We are on the Web!



[pnwb.ny.aft.org](http://pnwb.ny.aft.org)



## 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).

