

This month I am going to ask you to **do three things**. Help pass your school budget by voting **yes on May 16**, help **elect Christine Pellegrino to the New York State Legislature** and **march in support of the Lawrence teachers on May 17**.

It is school budget time. Each year, I send a letter to NYSUT members living within the Syosset School District asking them to support our budget by voting yes. Please do the same where you live and support the teachers who work in your community and the students that they teach.

We have the chance to do something amazing on May 23: Send Christine Pellegrino an honest-to-goodness educator to the New York State Legislature. Christine Pellegrino is an elementary reading teacher, mother of two and a strong and effective defender of public education. She is running in the 9th Assembly District on Long Island. Imagine what a better world it would be if we had more moms and teachers in the New York State Legislature! Now's our chance to make that happen, but time is short.

Christine has been endorsed by NYSUT as the candidate for the 9th Assembly District. She is one of us - an in-service teacher in Baldwin, a parent/teacher leader in the op-out movement, a union activist in her local and someone who is willing to put words into action.

This election date - May 23 - is a challenging election coming at an odd time - one week after the school budget vote! Voter turnout will be very low. So every single vote is extremely important! If you live in the 9th Assembly District, please vote for her and ask friends and family to do the same.

Even if you don't live in her district, you can help elect her by volunteering to make phone calls or distribute literature on her behalf. You can sign up at <https://mac.nysut.org/Pellegrino>. Please refer to my email and Facebook post regarding Christine for more information. I ask you to do whatever you can to make her election a reality.

When we work together as a union we can accomplish great things. Passing budgets and helping elect our representatives are just two of them. On a local level, we need to work together to foster unity in our buildings. We need to support each other especially at this time of year when we are all so busy. We also need to support our union brothers and sisters in their time of need.

The Lawrence teachers have asked for our help. With their last contract expiring in 2011 and no realistic prospect of a settlement for a successor agreement in sight, the Lawrence TA faces the most serious collective bargaining crisis of any local in Nassau County. The Lawrence Teachers' Association needs you to **walk with them on Wednesday, May 17 from 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm at the Lawrence Middle School (195 Broadway, Lawrence)**. So let's put on our STA shirts and stand in unity with the L.T.A at Lawrence Middle School on May 17 at 5:00 pm! See you there.

In Unity,

Simplifying your life insurance options

As an educated consumer, you realize the earlier in life that you purchase life insurance, the cheaper the premiums will likely be. You're also aware that life insurance offers financial protection for your dependents upon your death, helping to cover the costs of funeral and burial expenses; assistance to help with your children's education; and offering financial assistance with paying debts and other expenses.

It can be overwhelming, though, trying to determine the best type of life insurance policy. Let's take a look at some of the different types of life insurance options available.

#1: Whole Life Insurance – This type of insurance is usually the most costly since policies are guaranteed to remain in force as long as premiums are paid. Whole life insurance offers permanent protection with premiums that never increase and builds cash value you can borrow against while you are living (like a loan). **Important:** Understand that you will reduce your death benefit if you don't repay loans with interest and will no longer have coverage if you surrender the policy.

#2: Term Life Insurance – This type of insurance pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specified term, offering a fixed rate of payments during that time period. Once that period ends, coverage at the previous premium rate is not guaranteed and the insured would need to get

further coverage. Term life insurance (and its level term life cousin) is designed only to protect your dependents if you were to die prematurely -- offering NO cash value.

#3: Level Term Life Insurance – Like term life insurance, level term life insurance pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specific time period. Premiums may not be

increased during the time period due to change in your age or health status.

#4: Universal Life Insurance – This type of insurance offers a way to protect your dependents while building tax-deferred cash value. While the cost of a universal life plan needs to be covered so the policy remains in force, the policyholder has the option to adjust how much he or she will pay in premiums each year. Policyholders can also access a portion of the balance without affecting the

guaranteed death benefit as the cash value accumulates over time.

Keep in mind that NYSUT members & their spouses/certified domestic partners can help protect their dependents from life's uncertainties with a variety of NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed life insurance plans. Many of these plans offer group rates not available to the general public along with additional convenience and savings opportunities.

“Term life and level term life policies are often popular options for those individuals with young families since there is a greater need for life insurance protection. They also tend to be much less expensive than their whole life counterparts. If you are considering a term or level term life policy, make sure to consider how long you would need the coverage.”

For more information about these plans, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

NYSUT Representative Assembly 2017

The 45th annual Representative Assembly offered an opportunity for the union to reflect on the past year and to determine the priorities for the coming year and beyond. Six of our STA Executive Board members attended the Convention, which took place over the first weekend of our Spring Break.

Looking back, NYSUT's legislative team worked tirelessly to secure funding, the passage of beneficial legislation and to defeat legislative proposals which were disadvantageous to our membership. Their advocacy, as directed by the membership and the leadership of the organization, resulted in significant achievements for public education, such as:

- record increase in general purpose school aid (6.1%),
- \$175 million in community school funding,
- restoration of \$14.26 million for Teacher Center funding,
- defeat of the Parental Choice in Education Act (a backdoor voucher scheme)
- \$15 statewide minimum wage and paid family leave,
- defeat of executive budget attacks on active and retiree members' health care.

With the every changing landscape of this nation, we once again find ourselves facing significant challenges that could impact the NYSUT organization as well as the future of the labor movement. Our state organization remains steadfast in its fight for better contracts, safer working conditions, fair pay, advocacy and upholding the labor rights of the dedicated men and women proudly working in the education and health care industries on a daily basis.

New Officers

Our representative body elected new officers for the coming years:

President: Andy Pallotta

Executive Vice-President: Jolene DiBrango

1st Vice-President: J. Phillippe Abraham

2nd Vice-President: Paul Pecorale

Secretary-Treasurer: Martin Messner

News for Syosset

Our local won two awards: The Albert Shanker Award for and the Local Community Service Award. The Albert Shanker Award, is given to locals who demonstrate their commitment to supporting public education through their Vote-Cope campaign. The Local Community Service Award, is offered to locals who demonstrate a commitment to service in their local area, solving local problems. In addition, our own Laura Perfetti (Robbins Lane) was awarded the In-Service Community Service Award for her incredible commitment to The Children's Tumor Foundation (www.nf.org) as a volunteer and a fundraiser. We congratulate Laura for her dedication and applaud her work!

For all news and details of the Convention, please go to
<http://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/representative-assembly>



LEONARD MOTISI SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Syosset Teachers' Association sponsors an annual scholarship in honor of our former President, Leonard Motisi, who died in 1995. Because Mr. Motisi was not only a wonderful teacher and union leader, but also a gifted musician, we are seeking a recipient who is interested in education, and/or music and who is blessed with demonstrable leadership skills.

This scholarship shall be for \$500 a year and shall be continued for each of up to four years that the recipient is a full-time matriculated student at an accredited institution.

Applications were emailed out. They are available at the STA Office (ext. 5784). Completed applications should be sent to the STA Office in the H.B. Thompson Middle School and received no later May 5, 2017.

Your Employee Assistance Work/Life Program (EAP) provides support for a variety of personal and professional concerns including emotional well-being, family and relationship issues, job-related difficulties, substance abuse and others. Trained professional counselors are available 24/7. Your EAP can help. Call 800-833-8707 for a free and confidential consultation.

Rep Council Notes...

Last Meeting: 3/9 & 4/20/17

Treasurer's Report
Committee Reports
Political Action
Wellness
TRACT
REC
President's report

Rep. Council Attendees:

Baylis

Glenn Donlon*
Vicky Deletrain
Sunja Kulh

Berry Hill

Jodi Bekoff*
Robin Dimaggio*
Sandra Hoffman
Courtney Orphanos

Robbins Lane

Angela Alfred*
Lauren McAuley*

South Grove

Cathy Bozza*
Bridget Perlmutter*
Marie Vasco*
Michael Webb

Village

Allyson Giles*
Eileen Hoffman*
Diane O'Connell

Walt Whitman

Lori Bookspan*
Jennifer Gustafson*
Candace Nupp
Michelle Strauss

Willits

Susan Gallagher*
Ann Marie Hennessey
Denise Martinez
Elissa Wagner*

H.B. Thompson MS

Ann Cullen*
Darlene Darress
Debra Gazzola*
Krista Hachdoorian*
Tania Johnson*
Lisa Maniscalco
Marisa Occelli*
Arty Wakefield*

South Woods MS

Erica Dorf*
Michael Gross
Dana Kaplan
Stephanie Russell
Jason Wolner

NURSE

Maryann Ersboll*
Julie Naftal
Cindy Smith

Syosset High School

Stacey Balducci
Rosemary Jones
Jennifer Lamond
Lauren Lustig-Weill*
Nicole Lynch*
Stephanie Merten
Beth Schettino
Debbie Smith
Felicia Weiss*

Psych Services

Alena Kupferman*

REC

Matty Wolfson
Fritz Weinrich*

OT/PT

Bonnie Pantell*

Tract Center

Fran Bernstein

*Attended both meetings

Vote YES on May 16
Support your local
school budget



REMINDERS

General Membership meeting
Tuesday, May 9, 2017
3:45 p.m. HB Thompson Cafeteria

STA Rep Council meeting
May 11, 2017

Budget Vote May 16

Year End Rep Party
June 8, 2017 3-6 p.m.



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2016-2017

**SYOSSET TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Kim Pritchard, President	Carol Castaldi
Kat Kelly, Vice-President	Megan Halleran
Michael Callahan, Treasurer	Jody Braun
	Allison Noonan
	Debra Puccio

STAnd United

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Syosset Teachers' Association
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http://www.syossetta.org