

STAND UNITED

The month of June is always a good time to pause and reflect on the past school year. This year brought many changes. A new APPR plan was instituted. There was an increase in the use of technology including Chromebooks. And, as a union, we changed the way we vote on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

The observation portion of the revised APPR plan was more focused based on a small portion of the NYSUT Rubric. This portion of the rubric placed more of an emphasis on student centered learning. The growth portion was based on the average score of a select group of Regents exams. The moratorium on using 3-8 assessment scores for APPR purposes allowed for flexibility. As of now, this moratorium expires in 2019. And just this week, the NYS Board of Regents voted to reduce the length of those assessments from three days to two. We will have to wait and see what other changes are enacted to the tests when they are given next spring.

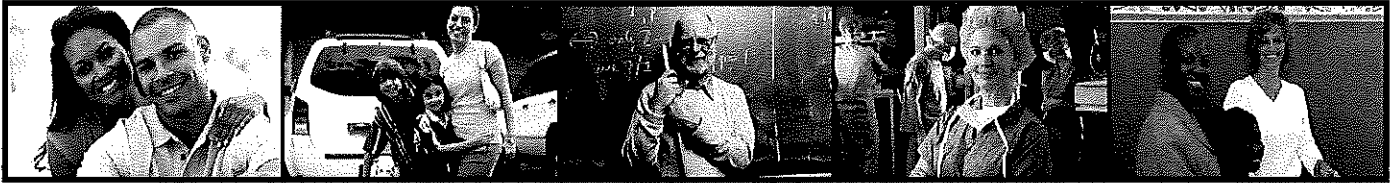
During the fall, an STA constitution committee was formed. The committee was charged with crafting an amendment to the STA constitution with regards to voting on MOAs. The amendment was presented at and approved by rep council. The amendment was then voted on and passed at a general membership meeting. This month, we used this new system for the first time and thanks to everyone, it was a very smooth transition and as you are all already aware the contract passed. Emphasizing that when we work together as a union, we can accomplish many things that we could not do on our own. Reminding us it will take our collective efforts if we are to be successful in preventing a NYS constitutional convention this November. We must all be prepared to **vote no** in November and to educate others as to why they should do the same.

Court cases continue to threaten the existence of unions. As you may remember, last year the Supreme Court split 4-4 on the Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association case. The crux of that case was whether public sector union fair share fees violate the First Amendment. Fair share fees may be required from employees, which the union has a legal duty to represent, but who choose not to join the union. This left in place the 1977 Supreme Court decision unanimously upholding the constitutionality of such fees (*Aboud v Detroit Bd. of Education*).

Now the National Right to Work Legal Defense Foundation is sponsoring two more attacks on unions. It has asked the Supreme Court to once again take up the question of whether fair share fees are constitutional, by filing a writ of certiorari (petition for review), of a lower court ruling upholding such fees. This is the *Janus v AFSCME* case. A petition for writ of certiorari was also filed in another case (*Hill v SEIU*), which challenges the right of unions to represent every member of the bargaining unit. This challenge is also based on the First Amendment. The Supreme Court will decide next fall whether to hear these cases. It is likely that the Court will take up at least the *Janus* case. If it does, the case will be briefed and argued, likely in early 2018, with a decision any time between March and June, 2018. These cases represent a real threat to working Americans and to the unions who give them a voice. NYSUT will be following the cases closely and I will keep you posted on these cases as well.

As always, on behalf of the entire Executive Committee of the STA, I want to wish all of you a wonderful summer and congratulate those of you who are retiring. See you in September.

In Unity,  
*Kim*



## ***NYSUT Member Benefits offers savings, advocacy***

Your union is steadfast in its fight for better contracts, safer working conditions, fair pay, advocacy and upholding the labor rights of the dedicated women and men proudly working in the education and health care industries on a daily basis.

But your NYSUT membership does so much more! It also provides you the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 endorsed programs & services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits. Look to Member Benefits for crucial insurance programs such as auto, homeowners, life, disability, or long-term care insurance along with a variety of travel, entertainment & shopping options.

And participation in Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services gives you the added protection of knowing you have a trusted advocate on your side. Each of our endorsed offerings are regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure member satisfaction. Member Benefits is here to help if you should ever have any issues or concerns with any of these programs.

**The following is just a sampling of the endorsed programs & services available to NYSUT members & their families:**

- Homeowners Insurance
- Auto Insurance
- Legal Service Plan
- Financial Counseling Program
- Life Insurance
- Vision Plan
- Abenity Discounts
- Office Depot/OfficeMax
- Car & Truck Rentals
- Wyndham Hotels
- TripBeat by Endless Vacation
- Premier World Discovery

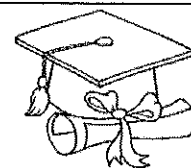


To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** or call **800-626-8101**.



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.

## Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



### STA's Leonard Motisi Scholarship Fund Winners:

- **Samuel Howell** : Samuel's mother & father, Kristin and John, are music teachers at the SHS
- **Cybele Laisney** : Cybele's mother & father, Julie and Hubert, are language teachers at S Woods & SHS
- **Catherine Lerose** : Syosset High School student

### Long Island Benevolent Fund Scholarship Winners:

- **Viktor Berbert**: Viktor's father, Wayne, is a teacher at Syosset High School.
- **Eve Calabria**: Eve's father, John, is a teacher at Syosset High School.
- **Emily Fuchs**: Emily's mother, Kristin, is a teacher at Syosset High School.
- **Samuel Howell**: Samuel's mother & father Kristin and John, are teachers at Syosset High School.
- **Cybele Laisney**: Cybele's mother & father Julie and Hubert, are teachers at S Woods and SHS.
- **Michael Rubinfeld**: Michael's mother, Meredith, is a teacher at HB Thompson.

## Congratulations to All Retirees...

May you enjoy a long retirement filled with good health and happiness. Be sure to stay involved. Attend REC meetings and luncheons, not only to stay in touch with friends, but to stay informed about educational issues. To continue contributing to VOTE-COPE, contact Lorraine Undank at 516-681-7965 or Debra Puccio at the STA office ext 5784.

Cherish the memories

of yesterday...

Celebrate today,

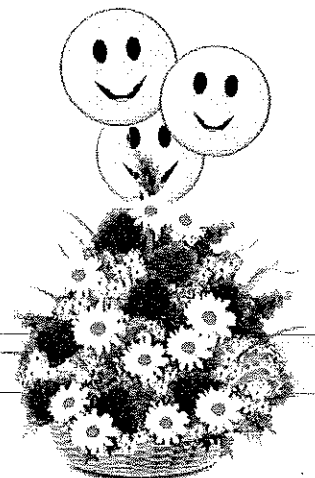
and wishing you...

Enjoyable moments ahead.

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Best Wishes

on your retirement.



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: 5/11/17

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

Rep. Council Attendees:

Baylis

Glenn Donlon  
Vicky Deletrain  
Sonja Kulh

Berry Hill

Robin Dimaggio  
Courtney Orphanos

Robbins Lane

Joyce Ettinger

South Grove

Cathy Bozza  
Bridget Perlmutter  
Marie Vasco  
Michael Webb

Village

Allyson Giles  
Diane O'Connell  
Michelle Potvin

Walt Whitman

Lori Bookspan  
Candace Nupp

Willits

Ann Marie Hennessey

H.B. Thompson MS

Ann Cullen  
Debra Gazzola  
Tania Johnson  
Arty Wakefield

South Woods MS

Michael Gross  
Dana Kaplan  
Stephanie Russell

Syosset High School

Lori Haubrich  
Debbie Smith  
Felicia Weiss

Psych Services

Alena Kupferman

REC

Fritz Weinrich

OT/PT

Bonnie Pantell

NURSE

Maryann Ersboll  
Cindy Smith

Save  
the  
Date

Long Island

Teachers' Night

at the

Long Island Ducks

September 8

More details to follow..

REMINDERS

STA Rep Council meeting  
September 14, 2017



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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

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Syosset Teachers' Association  
President: Kim Pritchard  
Editor: Donna Stanziani  
<http://www.syossetta.org>