

At this time each year, I always like to reflect on what has transpired during the school year. One of the STA goals was to increase member involvement. In order to reach that goal, an STA Facebook page was created, member events were held in each building, members were encouraged to continue to be politically active and STA t-shirts were purchased for members.

In an effort to improve communications with members, the STA website was totally redesigned a year or two ago and the STA Facebook page was launched this fall. In addition to our email blasts, these are two more resources for members to use to keep informed of current educational issues.

In lieu of the wine and cheese party this fall, each building was allotted a certain amount of money per member in order to hold a member event. Some schools hosted breakfasts where members wrote letters or downloaded the MAC. Some buildings hosted "labor lunches" where members were informed about recent trends in education and some buildings hosted a light dinner before early evening conferences. Whatever your building chose to do, I hope that you were able to attend the event and connect with your colleagues. I was fortunate to attend most of these events where I was able to hear the concerns of members.

Political action is a requirement during these times. Every year I ask you to join NYSUT's Member Action Center (MAC) and take action whenever required. Many of you have become part of the MAC and have been actively involved in political action. Not on the MAC? It is not too late to download the app to your smart phone or join at <https://mac.nysut.org/>. Many of you wrote letters to your elected officials and watched in disbelief as some of those officials did not stand by you, but instead stood with the Governor and enacted changes to Education Law as part of the NYS budget process which will affect us all. After the budget process, NYSUT members across the state voiced their disapproval and continue to do so. We must keep up the pressure to enact change.

Many of you attended rallies across Long Island and now you have STA t-shirts to wear to these rallies and while attending school events such as fun fairs, sporting events, plays and concerts. If you have not already done so, check out the photos on Facebook of members proudly wearing their new shirts.

As you can see from above, as a union, we made some progress on our goal but we still have work to do. While many of our members are involved, many are not. If we are to be successful as a union, then we must do so as a united group. Remember that the executive committee is not the union but rather your elected leaders. "You" are the union and everyone must be active.

In other news, the NYS Regents unanimously voted to appoint MaryEllen Elia as the new NYS Commissioner of Education. She is a native New Yorker with experience both in and out of the classroom. She spent the last ten years as the superintendent of schools in Hillsborough County, which includes Tampa and is the country's eighth largest district. See page 2 to learn more about her.

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. We wish you all the best. We look forward to working with those of you who will return in September as we continue to build our union.

In unity,

NYSUT 43rd Annual Representative Assembly

Our annual meeting of NYSUT officers and delegates was held in early May in Buffalo, NY. STA was represented by five voting delegates: Kim Pritchard, Kat Kelly, Mark Hanik, Allison Noonan and David Steinberg. NYSUT's Annual Rep Assembly convenes in support of the mission of NYSUT, which states "through a representative democratic structure, NYSUT improves the professional, economic and personal lives of our members and their families, strengthens the institutions in which they work, and furthers the cause of social justice through the trade union movement." This year's meeting was energizing, informative and a departure from RAs of the past as it was the first for our new leadership team, lead by Karen Magee (President, NYSUT). NYSUT's annual budget was passed. Annual reports were offered regarding Political and Legislative Action, Constitutional Issues, Member Benefits, Educational Advocacy and Social Justice. There was certainly a lot to talk about concerning our profession. Unfortunately, much of it continues to be a wait-and-see affair until the Regents finish their work on the Governor's requested APPR changes, among other things. Constituency groups represented included: teachers, school-related professionals, retirees, health care professionals, and non-traditional locals (including Special Act Schools). Students groups from around the Buffalo area performed prior to the General Sessions and awards were bestowed to locals in the areas of social justice and community involvement. Syosset, once again, was among a few districts demonstrating a strong commitment to VOTE-COPE, the voice of educators on behalf of children in the political process. As a local, the STA received a Community Service Award for all of our work with charities within the community. An individual award was given to Mark Hanik for his efforts as the STA Community Service Chairperson. Two amendments to the NYSUT Constitution were passed: one involving membership dues and one that defines NYSUT officers as a group of five moving forward.



MaryEllen Elia

The New York State Board of Regents voted to appoint MaryEllen Elia as the next Commissioner of Education and President of the University of the State of New York. Ms. Elia served as superintendent in Hillsborough County, Florida since 2005. Hillsborough County, which includes Tampa, is the nation's eighth largest school district with 206,000 students, 30,000 employees, and a \$2.9 billion budget. A native New Yorker, Ms. Elia began her career in education in 1970 as a social studies teacher in Buffalo's Sweet Home Central School District and taught for 19 years before moving on to administrative positions. Ms. Elia will start her new position on July 6.

NYSUT President Karen E. Magee had this to say about Elia's appointment: "It is vitally important for an education commissioner to respect teachers, to trust those working in public education and to listen — truly listen — to those in the field doing the hard work of teaching the state's students, particularly those who have special needs, are still learning English or live in poverty. This is a challenging time for public education and its educators and there is a lot of hard work ahead. We are encouraged that Commissioner Elia is an educator with decades of experience as both a teacher in New York's public schools and a superintendent in public education, and that she has strong academic credentials from our State University system."

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



STA's Leonard Motisi Scholarship Fund Winners:

- **Collin Chipetine:** Collin's mother, Stephanie, is a Social Studies teacher at the High School.
- **Cameron Carrella:** Cameron's mother, Linda, is a music teacher at Village.
- **Samantha Figler:** Samantha's mother, Debra, is a 6th grade teacher at HBT.

Long Island Benevolent Fund Scholarship Winners:

- **Tara Litvin:** Tara's mother, Debbie, is a teacher at Village.
- **Collin Chipetine:** Collin's mother, Stephanie, is a teacher at the High School.
- **Niko Martinovic:** Niko's mother, Gordana, is a teacher at Baylis.
- **Jennifer Partell:** Jennifer's mother, Bonnie, is a occupational therapist at Robbins Lane.
- **Melissa Gallagher:** Melissa's mother, Susan, is a teacher at Willits.
- **Sydney Tepper:** Sydney's mother, Wendy, is a teacher at Village.

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 Undonk 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.

Best Wishes

on your retirement.

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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...

Mtgs: 4/16/15 & 5/14/15

Approval of Goals
Treasurer's Report
Political Action
Wellness
TRACT
REC
President's report

South Grove

Bridget Perlmutter*
Cathy Bozza*
Jody Braun*
Sean Kiernan*
Michele Webb

South Woods Middle School

Carol Zwieliich*
Christine Payne
Erica Doff
Mike Gross

Rep. Council Attendees:

Baylis

Donna Conlon
Gordana Martinovic*
Vicky Deletrain

Village

Allyson Giles*
Eileen Hoffman
Michelle Potvin
Donna Genna

REC

Fritz Weinrich
Matty Wolfson

Berry Hill

Robin DiMaggio*
Jodi Beckoff*
Sandra Hoffman
Courtney Orphanos

Walt Whitman

Candace Nupp*
Michele Strauss*
Jennifer Gustafson*
Lori Bookspan*

Syosset High School

Beth Schettino*
Rosemary Jones*
Felicia Weiss
Jamie Pedicini
Stacey Balducci
Dr. Rafael Dueñas*
Debbie Smith*
Joanne Neary*

Robbins Lane

Linda Blanchfield*
Joyce Ettinger
Angela Alfred
Robin Kleinman

Willits

Jody Miller
Susan Gallagher
Lisa Funk

Registered Nurse

Susan Murphy*

H.B. Thompson Middle School

Tania Johnson*
Ann Cullen

Tract Center

Fran Bernstein*

OT/PT

Bonnie Pantell*

Marisa Occelli*
Fran Bernstein*

* Denotes attendance for both meetings



Find us on: **facebook®**

www.facebook.com/

Syosset Teachers' Association Facebook page screenshot showing the STA logo and navigation tabs.

REMINDERS:

Year End Rep Party
June 11

Board of Ed Mtg
June 15

Next Rep Council Mtg
Sept 10

2014-2015

**SYOSSET TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Kim Pritchard, President	Carol Castaldi
Kat Kelly, Vice-President	Megan Halleran
Michael Callahan, Treasurer	Mark Hanik
	Allison Noonan
	Debra Puccio
	David Steinberg

STAnd United

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Syosset Teachers' Association

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<http://www.syossetta.org>