

Welcome back to what I hope will be an amazing and professionally fulfilling school year. This summer I attended my first NYSTRS PREP seminar. The seminar provided me with a great deal of useful knowledge and the feeling that I am not yet ready to retire. One of the things I walked away with was the amount of information that is available on the NYSTRS website such as the schedule of future seminars, pension calculation tools, newsletters and your service record. If you have not already set up an account, I suggest that you do.

Moving on, this year presents some challenges. Among them is the renegotiation of our current APPR plan in order to conform with new regulations. The challenge lies in trying to work within a flawed system as Dr. Rogers stated in his letter written to Regent Tilles on behalf of the Board of Education:

"...the Regents must order a reassessment of the educator evaluation system simultaneous with the reevaluation of the curriculum and assessment systems - because flaws in any one element distort all the others. It would also concur with our position - we have no objection to valid, stable, understandable accountability systems, but this is not an example of one."

If you have been reading my emails regarding this subject, then you know that we will continue to operate under the current plan until a successor plan is approved by SED. There has been discussion about applying for a waiver as it is unlikely that a new plan will be approved by the November 15th deadline. Districts must have either a waiver or an approved plan in place by that date in order to ensure there are no losses in State Aid.

Another challenge may not be happening in Syosset but it is still a challenge to us and unions throughout the state. The Locust Valley SEA has been engaged in a protracted bargaining conflict with their district. Currently they are in their second year without a contract. The Locust Valley district has challenged the longstanding principle that automatic payment of step increments is mandated by the Triborough Amendment to the Taylor law and they have refused to pay any step increments to bargaining unit members while bargaining continues. The LVSEA and NYSUT are pursuing all legal remedies to force the district to comply with the law, but all public employees in NYS would be directly threatened should the district prevail in this matter. Several Syosset teachers who live in the Locust Valley school district have been assisting the LVSEA by attending school board meetings as have other teachers living in the district. There may come a time where they need us to stand in unity with them. I know when the time comes, I will be able to count on you for this important work. The fight they are waging is a fight for all of us.

Each year Rep Council votes on goals for the STA. This year's goals were unanimously approved and are:

1. Educate our members on the current state of public education and the value of participating in organized labor.
2. Encourage all members and their families to vote in every election.
3. Increase member involvement in school, PTA, community, STA and NYSUT events.
4. Putting the "U" back in the union.

We can only achieve these goals if we work together. See details inside regarding the STA's upcoming Solidarity Week. Please note the change of date for the General Membership Meeting to Wednesday, October 28th. Please mark your calendars now. I look forward to seeing you then.

In Unity,

STA Solidarity Week

October 26-30

You will be receiving more information on this week-long event as it gets closer. The purpose is to raise awareness about the importance of being in a union, reconnecting with members in and out of your building, and using your voice to become an active member of the STA.

Preliminary schedule

Monday: Check your mailbox for more information.

Tuesday: Please fill out the questionnaire, it will be in your mailbox, and return to your Head Building Rep. Your input is critical.

Wednesday: STA General Membership Meeting. Remember to **wear your red STA T-shirts** on this day. Attend this meeting... it's an opportunity to interact with all of the members of the executive committee and other STA members. There will be time to get updates on APPR, raise issues, and provide feedback.

Thursday: Read the "NYSUT Membership: What it means to you" flyer that is in your mailbox.

Friday: Stay tuned for more information on a possible social event.



Meeting Notice . . .

Syosset Teachers' Association
General Membership Meeting

HB Thompson, Middle School Cafeteria
New Date: Wednesday, October 28, 2015
3:45 p.m.

A n n o u n c i n g ...

Our 4th Annual Turkey Basket Drive

How can you get involved?

Make a financial donation: send donations attn: Mark Hanik to the STA office. Make checks payable to Syosset Teachers' Association

Help assemble the baskets (11/19 - 3 pm at the High School)

Help deliver the baskets (11/24)

If you **know of a family** in the Syosset School Community who is in **need of a turkey basket** for **Thanksgiving**, please contact: Mark Hanik our STA Community Outreach Program Chair at Mark.Hanik@gmail.com or call 516-364-5713.

Please remember to include your name (as contact person) and a family member's name/ phone/ address. put "STA Turkey Basket Volunteer" in the email subject line so that your email is not deleted as spam.



C h a n g e s

If any of the following changes occur: your name, address, telephone number, marital status, number of family members, etc., you must register your new information by contacting the appropriate offices:

1. Main Office in your home building
2. Personnel - Ms. Deborah Mawad
- ext 5647
3. Health Insurance - Ms. Karen Femminella- ext 5664
4. Life, Dental, LTD—Ms. Karen Femminella- ext 5664
5. STA Trust Fund & NYSUT Benefits
- Donna Stanziani - ext 5784

All changes must be conveyed to the insurance companies. This can only be accomplished by communicating with the above offices. Take a few minutes to call or write and send your information regarding the changes you wish to make.

REMINDERS :

Next STA Rep Council

October 8 2015

Nov 12, 2015

Making Strides Walk-a-thon

Sunday, October 18, 2015

(Please return T-shirt orders, school wide collections, and walker registration forms to Debra Puccio @ STA office, HBT Middle School)

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

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: 9/10/15

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

Rep. Council Attendees:

Baylis

Vicky Deletrain

Berry Hill

Robin DiMaggio
Sandra Hoffman

Robbins Lane

Linda Blanchfield
Angela Alfred
Joyce Ettinger

OT/PT

Bonnie Pantell

TRACT Center

Fran Bernstein

South Grove

Bridget Perlmutter
Caterina Bozza
Jody Braun

Village

Allyson Giles
Eileen Hoffman

Walt Whitman

Candace Nupp
Michele Strauss
Jennifer Gustafson

Willits

Lisa Funk
Susan Gallagher
Lorraine Avazis
Elissa Wagner

H.B. Thompson Middle School

Tania Johnson
Darlene Darress
Ann Cullen
Marisa Occelli

South Woods Middle School

Steven Balsamo
Michael Gross
Jennifer Bunkley

Syosset High School

Joanne Neary
Beth Schettino
Jennifer Lamond
Rosemary Jones
Debbie Smith
Mary Hendrickson

Registered Nurse

Susan Murphy

REC

Matty Wolfson

Psych Services

Marcus Crenshaw

2015-2016

**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

**September/October 2015
Volume 26, Number 1**

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