Blazing New Trails in Uncharted Territory

During these changing times, each of us has had to undergo major shift in our way of life. The COVID-2019 Pandemic has impacted our communities and our families, interrupting our normal daily activities, our ability to socialize, and our ability to educate. It has influenced our professional lives by challenging us to meet the needs of our students in a remote environment. It has affected our personal lives having to work from home. It has reshaped our thinking to prioritize health and safety, in both a physical and mental context, daily. In addition to these, we are asked to be prepared to respond to new directives and protocols at a moment’s notice from the local, state, and federal authorities.

But during this time, I have witnessed hope, promise, confidence, optimism, courage and inspiration from our members. Conversations revolve around innovation, creative solutions and resourcefulness. Members are collaborating more than ever to achieve success with each student.

We are a dedicated, caring staff that will do what is necessary to meet the needs of our students. We support each other during challenging times and work together to find solutions.

I am proud of our union, our staff and our students for rising to the challenge of today’s circumstances. Thank you for your commitment and resolve to improve every day.

In Solidarity,
Hilary Reilly
RCG BOCES TA President

Joan Rogers: Sharing How to Make Masks to Keep Us Safe!

Joan Rogers, our Work-Based Learning Coordinator at CGEC, felt the need to do something for others when school closed its doors in March 2020. As a result, she saw the need for face masks to be worn as Personal Protective Equipment to help prevent the spread of the virus. She researched some patterns online and modified it to be more comfortable with the help of her daughter, also home from college.

She decided to dig out her sewing supplies and see what she had to be able to begin the process. She even had to order a new sewing machine to be able to make more masks. She also shared her tips and instructions with staff, who began making masks for others as well.

Thank you, Joan, for sharing your expertise and for helping others stay safe! :)

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- For NYSUT Coronavirus Updates Visit: https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/coronavirus-toolkit
- To access Joan’s How to Make a Face Mask Video Visit: https://youtu.be/0pfZD2XsDQ4
Joan’s directions can be found here: CLICK HERE.

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Know Your Contract

“Do What You Can, With What You Have, Where You Are At.”

Theodore Roosevelt

Article 11: Teaching Conditions:
Section 11.21: Length of Work Year (p. 26)

“The work year for all employees shall not exceed 182 days. Any employee required to work in excess of 182 days will be paid 1/200th of his or her total annual salary for each additional day worked. Nothing herein provided shall restrict the Agency in developing and promulgating a school calendar.”

Due to Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order to remain teaching over April break, 6 days were credited towards the school year by Questar III, resulting in early closure for our educational sites. Related Service Providers who work at different locations will be credited working days per location by Human Resources and sites that did utilize their snow day allotment for the 2019-2020 school year are being credited those days. As a result, the official closing date of June 18th, 2020 resolution approved by the Board of Education on May 14th, 2020, may not be the final working day for all of our sites. Members should be contacted by their immediate supervisor about their final working date. If you have any questions, please reach out to your union leadership.

Shared Success

“Success usually comes to those who are too busy to be looking for it.” Henry David Thoreau

Andy Pallotta: NYSUT President: Teacher Appreciation Week

“I’ve been so inspired by the countless stories of how educators have responded to this crisis,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “It’s truly a time to reflect on how educators are so central to their students and their communities.”

The public undoubtedly agrees. A new national poll by the National Education Association shows parents and guardians express extremely positive views of educators. More than 80 percent of parents/guardians view public school teachers very favorably, with 88 percent approving of how their children’s teachers are handling the COVID-19 fallout. The poll also showed that parents/guardians believe educators are working hard to communicate with them, that educators are finding ways to connect with students who don’t have Internet access and they are giving their students more one-on-one assistance.

Media coverage has been favorable, too. Around the state, media accounts and social channels have highlighted impressive efforts by educators in districts large and small. https://www.nysut.org/news/2020/may/teacher-appreciation

Your union leadership appreciates each and every one of you!

American Federation of Teachers’ Plan for Safely Reopening America’s Schools and Communities

Randi Weingarten, President of the AFT, and her team have provided the National Governor’s Association with a plan that provides specific guidance for transitioning from lockdowns to other public health tools to limit the transmission of COVID-19. It focuses on reopening school buildings in particular, because the safe reopening of public school buildings means students can go to school, and parents, who work outside the home, can go to work. That is key to the reopening of the broader economy. We expect the plan to evolve and adapt over time. It rests on five pillars that draw on the best available science and public health guidance, and the expertise of educators and health practitioners.

Please access this ever-evolving document here: https://www.aft.org/reopen-schools

(This document has been shared with QIII’s Administrative Team.)
Thank You

During these unprecedented times and in the face of incredible adversity, each of you continue to sacrifice and dedicate yourselves to our children, our families and our communities.

We thank all of the educators, school-related professionals, nurses and other health care workers who continue to demonstrate their unwavering compassion, dedication and commitment to our communities on a daily basis.

memberbenefits.nysut.org | 800-626-8101

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.
Member Benefits Quick Guide

**Insurance Coverage**

Auto/Home/Boat/Motorcycle
Special group rates on coverage for auto, home, renters, boat and motorcycle, and personal excess liability umbrella coverage from MetLife.
866-697-8822

Term Life/Level Term Life
Financial protection for your family from MetLife.
888-386-9788

Disability
Income replacement benefits, provided by MetLife, help cover expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and unable to work.
888-386-9788

Dental
Competitively-priced coverage from MetLife, including preventive and routine services.
888-883-0046

Catastrophe
Major Medical
Supplements existing coverage if you have a serious medical issue, are confined to convalescent or custodial care, or require home health care.
800-626-8101

**New York Long-Term Care Brokers**
Long-term care insurance specialists help you choose the best coverage at the most competitive premium.
888-884-0077

**Vision**
Full coverage from Davis Vision for an eye exam, and one pair of eyeglasses or contact lenses per benefit period.
800-626-8101

**Pet Insurance**
Nationwide insurance for pets covers accidents and illnesses, ranging from ear infections to cancer, plus optional pet wellness plans.
866-838-3461

**WrapPlan II Universal Life Insurance**
Transamerica provides coverage that increases as your term life coverage decreases or ends.
866-697-8897

**Legal & Financial Services**

Legal Service Plan
Legal expertise on a range of personal legal matters provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C.
800-626-8101

Financial Counseling Program
Unbiased financial counseling with investment advisor Stacey Braun Associates.
800-626-8101

Synchrony Bank
Earn preferred rates on various savings products.
800-901-2965

Cambridge Credit Counseling
Get expert assistance on student loan repayment options and/or debt consolidation, along with no-cost consultations.
888-254-9827
CREDIT & DEBT COUNSELING
888-254-0398

UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program
Save up to $2,700 on lender fees and closing costs with Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.
800-50-NYSUT
(800-506-9788)

**Travel & Tours**

Orlando Employee Discounts
Save up to 30% on theme parks, attractions and vacation packages.
866-463-0193

Grand Circle Travel
Worldwide group travel and adventure tours.
800-221-2610

**Home Energy**

American Solar Partners
American-made modules, installed by IBEW union pros.
914-699-3366

Heat USA
Buying group that provides discounted heating oil and service plans.
888-432-8872

Tankfarm
Savings on propane service. No fees for rental, delivery or compliance.
888-966-1444
DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS

Abenity Discounts
Online provider of more than 290,000 discounts, giveaways and exclusive offers.
1-855-223-6489

Powell’s Books
One of the world’s largest independent booksellers and proud union employer.
800-878-7323

Bose
Discounts on personal and home sound systems.
877-709-2073

Purchasing Power
Member shopping program offering consumer products, vacations and online education services with easy and convenient payment plans.
800-537-3135

Buyer’s Edge, Inc.
Discounts on appliances, vehicles, furniture and other major purchases.
973-660-1001
USERNAME: 215
PASSWORD: NYSUT

1-800-Flowers
Flowers and gifts delivered worldwide.
800-356-9377
USE CODE: NYSUTMB

Office Depot/OfficeMax
Online and in-store discounts on school and office supplies.
855-337-6811, x 12897

CAR & TRUCK RENTALS

Alamo
800-462-5266
USE CODE: 213855

Avis
800-696-5685
USE CODE: A441200

Budget
CAR RENTAL:
800-455-2848
USE CODE: BCDX928400
TRUCK RENTAL:
800-566-8422
888-633-3857
USE CODE: 56000070789

Enterprise
800-736-8222
USE CODE: NYSUTMB

Hertz
800-654-2210
IN THE U.S.
800-654-3001
OUTSIDE THE U.S.
USE CODE: CDP85352

National
800-227-7368
USE CODE: 5028191

HEALTH & SAFETY

EPIC Hearing
Provides access to audiologists and ENTs, plus special pricing on hearing aids.
866-956-5400
USE CODE: NYSUTMBC

Defensive Driving Training
Online training course provides savings on your liability and collision insurance, and can reduce up to four points on your license.
800-626-8101
USE CODE: NYSUTDDC

Tunstall Medical Alert
Personal emergency response system for individuals living independently.
844-996-9788

AS A MEMBER OF NYSUT, we are fighting for you every day—for better contracts, safer working conditions and fair pay. Through our advocacy, we uphold hard-won labor rights for our members—and the best possible conditions for the students, patients and others that our members serve. We also offer you exclusive access to a variety of endorsed programs and services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits, and our national affiliates, American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA). From insurance to vacations, use this brochure to start taking advantage of all we have to offer. We're union proud and honored to serve you.

In solidarity,
J. Philippe Abraham
Chairperson, NYSUT Member Benefits Trust
100,000+
PAYROLL/PENSION DEDUCTION
More than 100,000 NYSUT members take advantage of this convenient way to pay for endorsed programs. Payment options often include enhanced coverage or additional discounts.

$1,500
AUTOMATIC INSURANCE BENEFIT
Every member receives this accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit at no charge. It includes free travel coordination services.

$25,000
ONE YEAR, NO-COST, TERM LIFE INSURANCE
Provided for every new NYSUT member for one year. Guaranteed renewal includes free preparation of a Will, grief counseling, funeral and beneficiary claim assistance, and estate resolution.

15%
METFIFE MULTI-POLICY DISCOUNT
By purchasing exclusive NYSUT member homeowners and auto insurance through MetLife, you'll receive a 15% multi-policy discount.

18-84
ELIGIBLE AGES TO PURCHASE LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE
With discounted rates for members and partners, New York Long-Term Care Brokers program specialists will help explain and compare different coverage from multiple insurance companies.

100
FREE FINANCIAL LEARNING MODULES
Available at: memberbenefits.nysut.org, check out our Financial Planning Center for quick overviews of important topics such as retirement planning, student loans, budgeting and more.

90%
CASH BACK ON ELIGIBLE VET BILLS*
Nationwide offers pet insurance policies for dogs, cats, birds or exotic pets. Enjoy up to a 10% discount for multiple pets enrolled in a household.

$5,000
ADDITIONAL BENEFIT FOR AFT MEMBERS
This accidental death & dismemberment insurance benefit for AFT members will double if an injury or death occurs in the workplace.

$150,000
ADDITIONAL BENEFIT FOR NEA MEMBERS
Additional life insurance and accidental death & dismemberment insurance from $1,000–$150,000 (depending on circumstances). Details at: memberbenefits.nysut.org

To learn more about our endorsed programs and services, please visit:
memberbenefits.nysut.org

For information about these programs or contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

NYSUT Member Benefits
800 Troy-Schenectady Rd. Latham, NY 12110-2455
PH: 800-626-8101 FX: 518-213-6413
memberbenefits.nysut.org
Let NYSUT Member Benefits assist with all your financial needs throughout your life

- Unbiased financial advice with our endorsed Financial Counseling Program
- Full-service program and 403(b) option available
- Access to our online Student Loan Center & Financial Planning Center

Expert legal assistance with our Legal Service Plan

- Low annual cost of just $85 ($55 for retirees)
  Save $5 with Payroll & Pension Deduction
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Free Simple Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

To learn more about these Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, call 800-626-8101 or scan the above QR codes.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.
# Save on travel with NYSUT Member Benefits!

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges the dedicated members of the NYSUT organization face when it comes to stretching their hard-earned dollars, including when booking vacations and making other travel plans. That is why we encourage all NYSUT members to look to NYSUT Member Benefits before making any purchasing decisions.

Save up to 30% on Orlando, FL excursions with our endorsed **Orlando Employee Discounts** program. Enjoy discounted tickets to Disney World, Universal Studios, Sea World and several other Orlando area attractions. Orlando Employee Discounts also offers up to 60% off rack rate at select hotels close to or on theme park property; hotel and theme park ticket travel packages; and a free 75-page *Disney World Guide*.

Our endorsed **Grand Circle Travel** program offers NYSUT members special pricing on a variety of international river cruises, tours and destinations around the world. Save $100 per person on published tours simply for being a NYSUT member, and enjoy other discounts and savings opportunities available for specific tours. Discovery opportunities, activities and discussions are included with each trip.

Whether traveling for business or leisure, NYSUT members can save up to 25% on car rentals with our endorsed **car rental companies**. Browse rates from Alamo, Avis, Budget, Enterprise, Hertz or National.

Learn more by visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or calling 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.
What is the Census?

The U.S. Constitution requires the Congress to count every person living in the United States every 10 years. This count has been conducted every decade for the past 230 years. The Census counts all residents, including non-citizens and children.

Why is it important?

Information from the Census is used to distribute more than $700 billion in federal funds for programs such as: Medicaid, Title I, school lunches, special education and housing assistance and many others. In addition, New York’s congressional districts and state Senate and Assembly districts will be redrawn in 2021 based on Census data. Experts project New York could lose one – possibly two – congressional seats, based on population trends and undercounting.

What is different this year?

For the first time, people will be able to fill out the Census survey online, by telephone or by mail. The Census Bureau will begin sending mail to all residents in the middle of March. The first day you can complete the Census online is March 12. In the following weeks, the bureau will send reminders to households that have not responded, and non-responders may be contacted at home.

Several populations are at higher risk of being undercounted: children, non-English speakers, immigrants and those without access to the Internet. Some people do not complete the Census for multiple reasons, including fear and distrust of government; concerns over privacy and security; and general apathy. Our outreach can help allay their concerns.

NYSUT’s Plan

- NYSUT encourages local leaders to run member-to-member campaigns about the importance of being counted.
- Develop print and digital materials to engage and educate members.
- NYSUT is working with other unions, community groups and like-minded organizations to spread the message.
- Children were undercounted in 2010. Our work will include curriculum, resources and activities for use in the classroom. NYSUT members can educate our students so that they will ask their parents if they’ve been counted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

nysutcounts.org
Pledge to complete your Census form!
nysutcounts.org/pledge
#CountMeIn
#NYSUTcounts