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Thank You

Another school year is about to enter the history books. Thank you for all that you have done this year to support our students, our programs and our Association. Hopefully it has been a rewarding year despite the many challenges that we continue to face in public education since the closures in 2020.

It was nice to see so many of you at our end of the year event on June 5th. Our membership is spread out in various work locations in 4 different counties which makes knowing our colleagues difficult. It is important to come

together, get to know each other, catch up and enjoy some time with each other outside of our normal school day. Roughly 80 of you attended the event, and hopefully had a good time!

Based on your feedback, we will look for ways to increase social opportunities next year. Already we have scheduled monthly yoga classes, dates will be announced closer to the start of next year. We are also in the process of forming walking groups and creating meet up opportunities at local establishments throughout our service area. As always, your input is welcome so that we plan events members are interested in. Let me know if you would like to help plan!

As fun (and important) as social opportunities are, we remain committed to working to support all of our members in any way that we can as you do the good work that you do. This means advocating for our members and pushing for policies that will support members, strengthen programs and improve the educational opportunities of our students.

We hope that you will join us in this advocacy by being active participants in our programs, serving on committees, sharing your perspective, and offering ideas and solutions

that make sense. It is easy to forget how much power each one of us has to make a difference. Our experience and insight is valuable. It is up to us to share it.

I hope that each one of you has a restful and enjoyable summer!

In Solidarity,
Joal Bova
President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association

We want to make sure that you are getting all that you can out of your membership. Make sure you are receiving communications from us through a personal email. Check out our website at <http://rcgboces.ny.aft.org/>. Follow us on Twitter, @BocesRcg. If you have not already created an online account do so at www.NYSUT.org. Our Local is RCG BOCES Teachers' Association and we are Local 10175. Once you log in you will have access to a variety of membership benefits.



About Juneteenth

Although U.S. President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation ending slavery on Jan. 1, 1863, freedom didn't come for enslaved African Americans living in Texas until June 19, 1865 -- a full two and a half years later.

Today that anniversary, known as Juneteenth, is celebrated as "emancipation day" with parades, picnics, family gatherings and public celebrations. Many also fly the Juneteenth flag, which echoes the red, white and blue of the U.S. flag, and features a center star representing Texas, and an outer starburst representing a new beginning for African Americans.

"Juneteenth is a time of celebration for all Americans," said J. Philippe Abraham, NYSUT secretary treasurer. "I encourage members to learn more about this important holiday and share that knowledge with their students."

Union General Gordon Granger traveled to Galveston, Texas to issue General Order Number 3, which officially enforced the Emancipation Proclamation, after Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered in April.

What is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth celebrates the end of African American slavery in the United States. President Joe Biden established Juneteenth as a federal holiday in 2021.

When is Juneteenth?

Juneteenth is observed on June 19, marking the day Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to inform enslaved African Americans that slavery had been abolished.

Why Juneteenth?

The name is comprised of the words 'June' and 'nineteenth.'

Who should celebrate Juneteenth?

Everyone! Learning about our nation's history, and acknowledging our past helps us improve as a society and teaches empathy. Juneteenth today celebrates African American freedom

and achievement, while encouraging continuous self-development and respect for all cultures.

Opal Lee, the "Grandmother of Juneteenth"

Opal Lee, a retired Texas teacher, counselor, and activist, is often described as the "grandmother of Juneteenth."

- She campaigned for decades to make Juneteenth a federal holiday, leading annual 2.5 miles walks to represent the 2.5 years it took for news of the [Emancipation Proclamation](#) to reach Texas.
- At age 89, she conducted a symbolic walk from Fort Worth to Washington, D.C., leaving in September 2016 and arriving in Washington in January 2017.
- She promoted a Change.org petition for a Juneteenth federal holiday, garnering 1.6 million signatures.
- At age 94, she was an honored guest at the 2021 bill-signing ceremony declaring Juneteenth a national holiday.
- In 2022, over 30 Congressional members **nominated Lee for the Nobel Peace Prize.**

Source: NYSUT Communications

Read full article here:
<https://www.nysut.org/news/2023/june/celebrate-juneteenth>

Sackett and RHGTS Team Up



The Sackett Educational Center’s student council held its annual student dance on June 2nd. The theme of the dance was “Glow in the Dark”. Students from Julia Miller’s art class spent several

weeks creating glow in the dark artwork to add to the ambiance of the dance. This included a glow in the dark photo booth as well as wall art, streamers, balloons and glow sticks. Music was provided by DJ Ryan Moloney, who also doubles as the building math teacher.

Several cosmetology students from Lisa Baron’s class at the RHGTS once again traveled to Sackett to help students prepare. Among the services offered were haircuts and styling as well as makeup. Students from RHGTS

receive hours for the work that they do providing services to the students at Sackett.

The Sackett student council is open to any student who wishes to participate. They meet a few times a month during their lunch time. Council members plan student events and offer input to better their experience at Sackett. This year’s activities have included a breakfast fundraiser at Applebees and an employee car wash to help fund the student yearbook.

KNOW YOUR CONTRACT

Article 9- LEAVE

9.9 Sick Leave Bank

A. The sick leave bank shall be continued to provide additional sick leave credits to employees who have exhausted sick leave credits because of long-term illness.

B. Between April 1st and April 30th in each successive year, the Association shall notify the Executive Officer as to any additional contributions to be made by employees and deliver signed authorizations for such additional contributions. Contributions to the bank shall be made, in writing, and signed by the employee on forms to be provided by the Association. The form for such contributions is attached as Appendix C.

C. An eligible employee may be granted up to 30 days of sick leave credits from the bank by submitting a request, in writing, to the President and Executive Officer, or

their designees. The form for such request is attached hereto as Appendix D. An employee shall be eligible to use sick leave credits from the bank only after the completion of one year of service.

D. In the case of extended illness, an eligible employee, upon exhausting such 30 days and subject to the limitations of this section, may be granted additional days from the bank by the Executive Officer and the President.

E. Either the Executive Officer or the President may require the employee to submit supporting documents to establish the appropriateness of each request.

F. As a condition for eligibility, the employee’s sick leave must have been exhausted as the result of illness and he or she must have been a contributor to the bank within the preceding two years.

No request for leave shall be granted unless both the President and the Executive Officer agree and the granting or failing to grant an application shall be in their sole and exclusive discretion and shall not be granted until at least 30 days have been contributed by employees to the bank and no individual request shall be granted which, on the date of the application is filed, would exceed one-half of the number of days in the bank to less than 15 days. In the event that there are requests for leave which will exceed the total amount in the bank, the President and Executive Officer may resolve conflicting claims, grant applications in part, or take whatever other action they may deem to be appropriate. Nothing in this section shall be construed as giving a vested or property right to any interest in the bank and days once contributed may not be withdrawn.

NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

Universal Life Insurance with Convalescent Care Benefit

provided by:

Trustmark
benefits beyond benefits

- Innovative universal life insurance product provided by Trustmark®, combining life insurance coverage with a convalescent care benefit that can be used to pay for long-term care services.
- Limited time offer! In-service members ages 18-64 who enroll between May 1 and June 16, 2023 may qualify for guaranteed coverage (no medical questions) up to \$50,000.
- Retiree members up to age 70 may elect coverage up to \$100,000 by answering some medical questions.

LIVING BENEFITS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

You could require long-term care services at any point in your life, which could cost hundreds of dollars per day. This universal life insurance program includes a convalescent care benefit that can help pay for these services at any age. Policyholders with a qualifying claim can collect up to 4% of their universal life death benefit per month for up to 25 months -- helping to cover the cost of long-term care services such as an in-home health aide, assisted living facility, or nursing home care.

LIFE INSURANCE

Protecting your loved ones is one of life's greatest responsibilities. Along with the grief that comes with losing a family member, survivors may suddenly be faced with costly expenses, debts, and a loss of income. Your death benefit can be used to help pay these expenses or for other items such as tuition or savings.

YOURCARE360 ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDE

This program includes access to YourCare360, providing an online resource that can help to guide you and your family through the caregiving journey.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org
or calling 800-626-8101.

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

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