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Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!

Your Executive Team welcomes all of our staff to the new school year! We look forward to getting to know each of you better as the year progresses. We have a new member serving on our team, Danielle Loyche, who will be sharing the responsibilities for AFL-CIO (Troy Area Labor Council) and ED#10 representation with Jefferson LaMountain. Please congratulate Danielle on her new position with our Local!

NYSUT Headquarters is busy with training for our local leadership on union issues.

Most recently, we have participated in Next Generation NYSUT, Health and Safety, and Membership training.

In addition, we are taking steps that will improve your access to NYSUT member benefits and services.

As you work with students this year, take a few minutes each day to reflect upon your successes in the classroom. We are looking to highlight some of these stories in our quarterly issues of this newsletter. To share these success stories, click [here](#) to access the submission form.

We look forward to hearing from you and sharing your achievements throughout the year!

In Solidarity,

Hilary Reilly, President

Joal Bova, VP for SpEd

Becky Lanier, VP for CTE

John Mahony, Treasurer

Chris Miller, Membership

Emily Bluhm-Allen, Secretary

Diane Stever, Grievance

Jeff LaMountain and Danielle Loyche, AFL-CIO/ED#10

Union Updates

- *Negotiations will begin soon. We are bargaining without the Federation.*
- *If any members are having difficulty with their prescription costs after the closing of Rite Aid pharmacies, please let your building level rep know.*
- *Share your experiences with the new Health and Safety*

NYSUT Hosts Mugwena Maluleke, South African Teachers' Union

Paul Webster, Director of Community Outreach at NYSUT, arranged for leadership to meet and learn from the South African Democratic Teachers' Union (SADTU) Secretary General, Mugwena Maluleke speaking about the progress and struggles of educating South African children since 1994 on Oct. 10, 2019. Mugwena, an in-

spiring speaker, symbolizes the South African people's perseverance and hope.



RCG BOCES TA Pres., Hilary Reilly, was in attendance representing NYS BOCES' teachers.

*“Without knowledge action is useless and knowledge without action is futile.”
~Abu Bakr~*

Know Your Contract

Section 4.9: Staff Development Day (p. 4)

“The Agency (Questar III) will advise the Association as soon as tentative plans for a staff development day have been approved. The Association will have the right, upon request, in writing, to the Executive Officer (Dr. Cruz), to be consulted in

the planning for such a conference.”

November 5th is our first Staff Development Day and a formal request has been made for our union leadership to participate in the planning phase. There was a survey sent to staff that will help to provide needed feedback on the needs of

each location, but as your union, we encourage you to contact us if you want us to include your input in the planning. Please reach out to your building level reps or leadership team to share your thoughts so we can better serve your professional development needs.



Shared Success

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

Sackett Students Celebrate “The International Day of Peace”

Students and staff at the Sackett Education Center participated in a celebration of the International Day of Peace on Friday September 20th. The celebration, which was the school’s second annual, was held near the recently completed Peace Poles. The poles were a year long project undertaken by students in Marni

Tesser’s art classes at Sackett. Traditionally a peace pole has the statement “May Peace Prevail On Earth” written in several languages. The students at Sackett expanded this concept to include four poles, one for each of the four cardinal directions and containing languages from each region of the world.

The theme for the 2019 Day of Peace was Climate Action for Peace. At the cele-

bration students read quotes about peace and reflected about the best ways to be peacemakers in the many communities that they are a part of, starting with the school community and ending with the global community. At the end of the ceremony students signed pledges of peace outlining what they had committed to do to advance the cause of peace in the world

The Social Studies bulletin board at Sackett containing the student peace pledges and the Sackett Peace Poles.

NYSUT LGBTQ Caucus



A panel of students, parents and staff participate in a discussion at a recent “Book Tasting” at NYSUT Headquarters in Latham, NY

NYSUT’s LGBTQ Caucus held a “Book Tasting” event at NYSUT Headquarters in Latham September 27th, 2019. The event was focused on making schools safe and inclusive for LGBTQ students and staff.

Attendees from around the Capital District took part in a panel discussion and were given 5 different books to bring back to their schools. The books contain LGBTQ characters and strive to make offerings in classes and libraries inclusive so that LGBTQ

students see themselves represented in a variety of ways across the curriculum.

RCG BOCES TA VP for Special Education, Joal Bova, was in attendance.

Please follow @LGBTQNYSUT on Twitter and Facebook for upcoming events.



Your Union-Endorsed Benefits: Debt Consolidation & Mortgage Savings

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the challenges that the hardworking women and men of this labor union face when it comes to financial issues such as student loan re-payment options, credit card consolidation or debt management, or saving on purchasing or refinancing a home.

Student Loan & Debt Counseling Program

Your union membership allows you to receive a no-obligation debt and/or student loan consultation at no cost with a certified counselor through the Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **Cambridge Credit Counseling** program. Cambridge provides individualized student loan counseling along with a unique web portal available at a reduced rate to help explain the various options when paying student debt; debt relief services are also offered.

UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program

The Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage Corp.** offers union members and their families savings of up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs. Your union membership also entitles you to no application or processing fees; no commitment fees; no underwriting fees; no lender or broker fees; and reduced attorney and title fees.

The Power of the Union

Regardless of whether you are participating in either of the programs mentioned above; one of our endorsed insurance, financial or legal programs; or our many shopping, entertainment or travel offerings, NYSUT members receive a quality product and enjoy the "**Power of the Union**" behind them. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, Member Benefits is here as your advocate if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs.

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs, 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.