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**Union Updates**

- *Have you signed up for UnionPlus yet? There are many benefits you may have missed. Visit: <https://www.unionplus.org/> to learn more!*
- *Educator Resources are available for teachers to use in their classrooms to teach students about the 2020 Census. Visit: <https://nysutcounts.org/resources-for-educators> to access these resources!*

**Happy New Year!**

As we enter the new decade, public education is facing new challenges at the state and national level. Our dedication to our students and fellow colleagues needs to remain steadfast in our attempts to maintain an equitable and sustainable profession.

The NY State Property Tax Cap directly impacts students because school children are denied educational resources and opportunities based on the relative taxable wealth of their school districts. When districts do not receive adequate

funding, they cannot continue to send students to BOCES programs. We, as educators, value our students above all else, continuing to advocate for adequate and consistent funding to prepare them for future success.

This year the Governor's proposed executive budget is trying to eliminate BOCES Aid in future years by folding it into district Foundation Aid. The result would mean BOCES will have to compete with the funding needs of the districts. This idea was fought (and won) in previous budget proposals. We cannot

allow this to pass the legislature! Let your voice be heard at: <https://mac.nysut.org/issues>.

The 2020 Census is upon us and our NYSUT Counts initiative (<https://www.nysut.org/news/nysut-united/issues/2020/january/nysut-counts-census-2020>) is in full swing. Tens of billions of dollars in federal funding are at stake if we do not encourage ALL state residents to be counted. Take the pledge! <https://nysutcounts.org/>

In Solidarity, Your Executive Team

**Chef Andrew Ottati Receives National Recognition!**

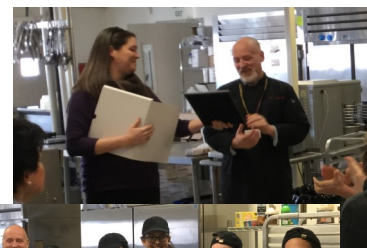
Chef Andrew Ottati of the Rensselaer Educational Center's Culinary Arts Program was recently honored with the ProStart Educator of Excellence Award by the National Restaurant Association.

Anthony Defazio, the principal at REC, states "This award represents a significant achievement and is a well-deserved recognition of Chef Ottati's years of dedication, sacrifice and skill as an educator. I personally know how hard Chef Ottati works and appreciate his

commitment to his students and his craft as a culinary teacher."

Fellow Chef Peter Desmond (CGEC) states that Chef Ottati "is a true joy to work with. He is a leader as well as a companion working in the culinary industry. He shows a passion and love for culinary arts, always in a mode of continuous improvement!"

We are proud to recognize Chef Ottati for his efforts to provide Questar III students with a quality education! His students are thrilled with his success!



*“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about the things that matter.”*

*~ Martin Luther King Jr. ~*

## Know Your Contract

Section 11.11 - Classroom Visits (p. 24)

“The Agency and the Association recognize the potentially disruptive effect of unscheduled visits to the classroom by uninvited third parties. In order to minimize such disruptive events, a procedure for early announcement of visits by third parties shall be a subject of discussion at meetings of

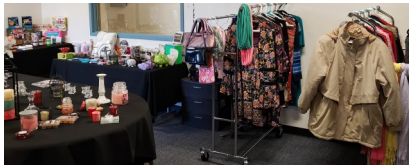
the Liaison Committee.”

Our administration has made efforts to announce third party visits in advance. Evidence of this include principals that provide a weekly summary of the events, and communication at School Improvement and Faculty/Strand meetings.

Recent discussions at Liaison meetings have includ-

ed the unannounced visitation of administration sometimes being referred to as “Wows and Wonders”. The Association has been reassured that none of these visits are connected to APPR and are not evaluative in nature.

If a member is under the impression that one of these visits is referenced under APPR, please let your building representative know.



### Career Academy School Store Open for Business!

Special Thanks go to Esther Vezzuto and Jeff LaMountain for providing student access to the school store at no cost!

### Shared Success

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

#### Career Academy @ Columbia-Greene Ed. Center: School Store Open For Business!

We all serve students in need at all of our locations. These needs can include proper attire for a job interview, warm clothing in the winter-time, a backpack/purse to carry items to and from school, or a gift for a loved one. The Career Academy at CGEC decided to utilize an

adjacent space to solicit donations of items from staff. They organized the room into sections and began inviting students to visit.

Before the holidays in December, many students were able to provide their family members with a gift. There is never a cost to choose items and students left the room talking about paying it forward to someone else.

Comments from students included, “I am so glad that I came to school today” and “ My mother is going to love this!” What began as a concept has flourished into a spirit of giving that is infectious. Congratulations to the Career Academy staff! You embody the true spirit of education– to share compassion for one another.

~ Jefferson LaMountain (AFL-CIO/ED #10 Rep)



### Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Use the NYSUT MAC Website to contact your legislators today! We have no time to waste. BOCES Aid CANNOT be merged with Foundation Aid!

<https://mac.nysut.org/action/300>

### Governor Cuomo’s Executive Budget Proposal: Potential Impact for BOCES

Governor Andrew Cuomo has released his Executive Budget Proposal for 2020-2021.

As he attempted to do in prior years, the current proposal includes a merging of multiple, educational aid categories into Foundation Aid. This includes BOCES Aid, which needs to re-

main segregated in order for districts to be held accountable for using that aid to send students to BOCES programs and receive BOCES services.

NYSUT challenged, and won, the last time that this proposal was presented. We need to stand together in

solidarity once again in order to prevent this from occurring.

Let your legislators hear your voice loud and clear! BOCES Aid needs to remain segregated from Foundation Aid! The future of BOCES lies delicately in the balance!





# **NEW Endorsed Program**

Get ready to Access ... big savings!

NYSUT Member Benefits is pleased to announce the launch of our newest endorsed program -- **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals provided by Access Development!**

This money-saving benefit is available exclusively to NYSUT members and features the nation's largest private discount network.

These deals can be accessed either online or from the palm of your hand through Access Development's MB Deals mobile app. Visit [mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com](http://mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com) to learn more.

Register your account on the Access website with your NYSUT ID number using the URL above. You will then be able to enjoy exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on shopping, restaurants, movie tickets & entertainment, travel, oil changes & vehicle maintenance, and much more.

## **Have a favorite local business?**

One of the best features of the MB Discounts & Deals program is the ability to recommend your favorite local business, restaurant, coffee shop, etc. to potentially join the Access Development network.

**Register your account on the Access website by March 31, 2020 to be eligible to win prizes -- visit the Member Benefits website for more information!**

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

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

**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**

**nysut**

Working to Benefit You



# Member Benefits Quick Guide

## INSURANCE COVERAGE

**MEMBER BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

### 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.

STUDENT LOAN COUNSELING

**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**

MENTION NYSUT MEMBERSHIP FOR SPECIAL RATES AND OFFERS

## 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.

**855-966-1444**







## DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS

### Abenity Discounts

Online provider of more than 290,000 discounts, giveaways and exclusive offers.

1-855-223-6489

### Bose

Discounts on personal and home sound systems.

877-709-2073

### Buyer's Edge, Inc.

Discounts on appliances, vehicles, furniture and other major purchases.

973-660-1001

USERNAME: 215  
PASSWORD: NYSUT

### Office Depot/ OfficeMax

Online and in-store discounts on school and office supplies.

855-337-6811, x 12897

### Powell's Books

One of the world's largest independent booksellers and proud union employer.

800-878-7323

### Purchasing Power

Member shopping program offering consumer products, vacations and online education services with easy and convenient payment plans.

800-537-3135

### 1-800-Flowers

Flowers and gifts delivered worldwide.

800-356-9377

USE CODE:  
NYSUTMB



## CAR & TRUCK RENTALS

### Alamo

800-462-5266  
USE CODE: 213855

### Avis

800-698-5685  
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%

## METLIFE 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](http://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.

*\*Some exclusions may apply. See policy documents for a complete list of exclusions.*

# \$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](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)

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



To learn more about our endorsed programs and services, please visit:

[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)

NYSUT Member Benefits

800 Troy-Schenectady Rd. Latham, NY 12110-2455

PH: 800-626-8101 FX: 518-213-6413

[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://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



SCAN ME

## 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



SCAN ME



To learn more about these Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), call **800-626-8101** or scan the above QR codes.

**MEMBER  
BENEFITS**  
**nysut**  
Working to Benefit You

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