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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!*

Looking forward to Spring!

2020 is full of opportunities for members to engage in both statewide and national policy decisions.

This January, Randi Weingarten: President of the American Federation of Teachers, held the AFT Northeastern Regional Meeting in Saratoga Springs. She restated how public education has been under attack since Betsy DeVos became Secretary of Education and the repercussions of this that are being felt throughout the country. This has resulted in the increase in the num-

ber of Charter Schools that can access public education funding in New York State (which takes away funding for districts who send students to BOCES). We need to make sure that our voices are heard this election by voting for candidates that support public education.

NYSUT and the AFT are both advocating for 100% participation in the 2020 Census for the same reason. Millions of dollars in Public Education funding will be lost if we do not count every individual in our state. <https://nysutcounts.org/>

We were encouraged by the statements from our state legislators on BOCES Lobby Day when they pledged their full support for the BOCES bills (more on p.2) in the legislature.

Our local representative, Antonio Delgado, during a visit to CGEC, is also proposing a bill entitled the "Gateways to Careers Act" in the U.S. Assembly. (more on p.1)

Visit the MAC to tell your legislators to support BOCES bills here. <https://mac.nysut.org/issues>

In Solidarity,

Your Executive Team

Antonio Delgado, Representative of the NY #19, Visits CGEC!

Antonio Delgado scheduled a visit to the Columbia-Greene Educational Center, Hudson, to celebrate CTE Month on Feb. 18th, 2020.

Rep. Delgado met with administrators, teachers and a teaching assistant who provided a tour and answered questions.

Rep. Delgado is sponsoring a bill entitled "Gateways to Careers Act" with several co-sponsors in the Assembly. This bill will help to fill the gaps for underserved populations that enter into training programs or careers and still need access to transportation, childcare, and/or tuition. He wants to return to CGEC when students are in session to see firsthand what CTE at a BOCES is all about!



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

~ Martin Luther King Jr. ~

Know Your Contract

Article 5: Negotiations Procedures (p. 8)

“Prior to January 15th of the last year of this Agreement, either party may request the commencement of negotiations with a view towards an agreement to succeed this Agreement.”

In January 2020 a request was made to our administration to begin the process of negotiating our next

contract. Several meetings have taken place by both the administrative and union teams to author their proposals since that time. Unfortunate events related to the COVID-2019 pandemic have now stalled the process.

NYSUT is not meeting with any of its locals until April 15th, 2020. We will be utilizing email correspondence to finalize our union pro-

posal.

In addition, our schools may need to close for periods of time preventing us from communicating as a team in person.

As a result, we want the membership to know that both the administrative and union teams are ready to proceed once cleared for health and safety reasons. That remains our primary concern for all.

Shared Success

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



BOCES Lobby Day 2020

Students and staff from CGEC, REC and Sackett Educational Center met with legislators in the

Assembly and Senate Feb. 26th in support of BOCES Legislation. Students were prepared to speak to the 8 bills proposed in the legislature this session in addition to advocating for the removal of the

BOCES Aid and Special Act Aid from the Foundation Aid in the Governor’s proposed budget.

Staff were amazed by the powerful stories students shared, followed by the naming of the bill and the sponsor. Students then elaborated why this bill was so important to them and their program. The adults in the room could not have made as strong an impact.

All Questar III participants were invited to the Assembly Floor by Rep. Chris Tague (a former BOCES CTE graduate) to be present when he proposed his bill citing that CTE Month (February) would become a statewide recognition annually.

Find the NYSUT Talking Points for each of these bills in the February Union Meeting minutes as an attachment to learn more!

~Hilary Reilly
RCG BOCES TA President

Assemblyman Chris Tague, a BOCES CTE Graduate, proud to stand with Questar III staff and students!

American Federation of Teachers Visits Saratoga Springs



Randi Weingarten Stands in Solidarity with WSWHE and Questar III BOCES Leadership!

Randi Weingarten, President of the AFT, hosted the Northeastern Regional Meeting of the AFT at the Saratoga Hilton Jan. 25-26th, 2020. During this meeting discussions centered upon the importance of public education. We, as teachers, need to be cognizant of the

position that our candidates hold on public education before entering a ballot. Many of our current representatives in Congress are in support of the Charter School industry and want to privatize education for all states. This is in support of the DeVos Foundation and

our existing Secretary of State. We encourage our members to find out more about the candidates and learn where they stand before voting. Learn more from our national affiliate for teachers at: <https://www.aft.org/resolution/aft-goals-political-endorsements>



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 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.

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



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, 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

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

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



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



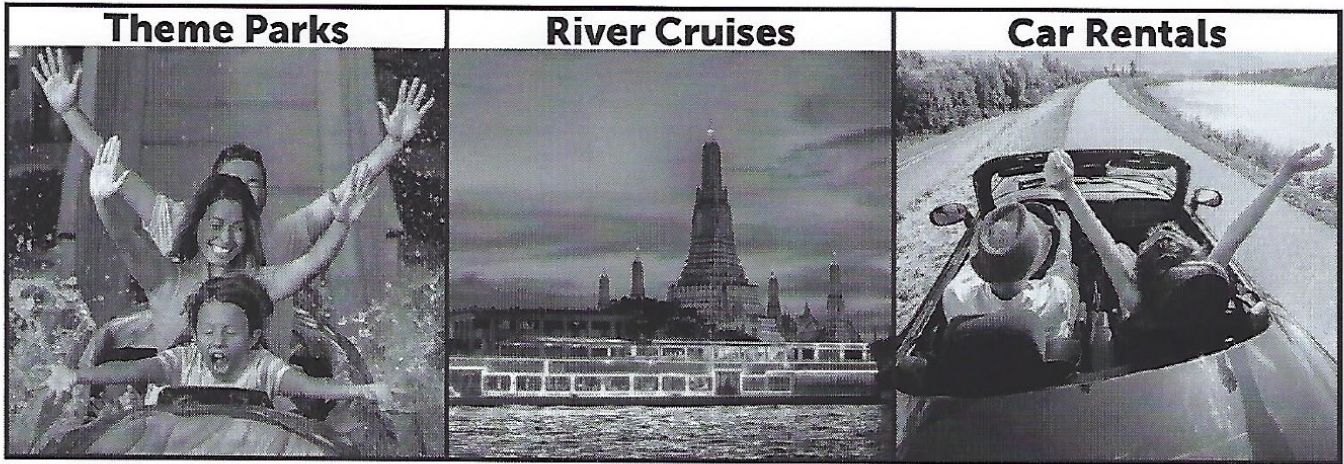
SCAN ME



To learn more about these Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, 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.



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
 or calling 800-626-8101.



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

NYSUT 2020 census COUNTS

COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS FORM!

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?

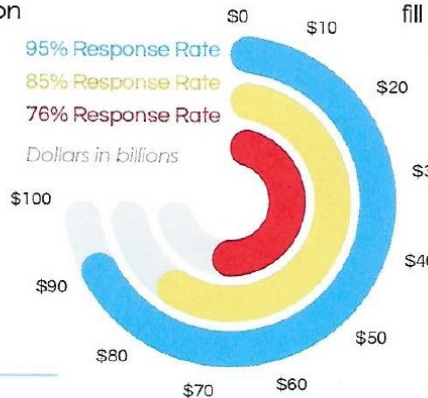
Information from the Census is used to distribute more than \$700 billion in federal funds for programs such as: Medicaid, Title 1, school lunches, special education and housing assistance and many others. In addition, New York's congressional districts and state Senate and Assembly districts will be 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.



▲ As the response rate increases, our state's share of critical federal funding gets larger.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

nysutcounts.org

Pledge to complete your Census form!

nysutcounts.org/pledge

#CountMeIn

#NYSUTcounts

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.