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- *For NYSUT Coronavirus Updates*
Visit: <https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/coronavirus-toolkit>



The Fall season has always been a favorite of mine. There is something about the changing color of the leaves and the crisp air that has a calming effect on me and puts me in a reflective state. No doubt that the excitement of a new school year adds to this reflective mood as I think back on past years and plan for the coming one.

Fall feels different this year. Sure, I've already started to crave apple cider donuts, I've purchased some mums, and baked a pumpkin ricotta cake this past weekend, but in addition to my normal Fall calm, there has also been anxiety and even a sense of dread.

I think back to this past Spring when the closures began and remember the daily sanity saving walks that I took each afternoon as I thought to myself "I'm so glad the quarantine is happening now and not in the dead of winter".

Well-Deserved Recognition of Local Health Care Workers

On July 1st, 2020, the RCG BOCES Teachers' Association Executive Board delivered six pastry platters to each of two, regional, nursing homes (Van Rensselaer Manor-Troy and The Pines-Catskill). 2019-2020 mentors and mentees agreed to donate the cost of their meal from the cancelled Mentor Dinner towards this cause

Two seasons later we are confronted with the reality that we will almost certainly experience a winter of quarantine in some fashion. What impact will this have on the holidays? Our families? Our students? Ourselves?

This is hard and we are tired. We have no idea how long this winter will last so we must prepare and care for ourselves so that we are available for those that matter. The work that we do matters. It matters to our students who look to us not only for an education, but who look to us for a sense of security and even purpose. Teaching in this time of social distancing and hybrid learning is trying, but we are doing it. A musician that I like a lot, JS Ondara, recently released a new song in which he sings "If I must, If I have to, I will love you from six feet away".

to raise the spirits of our sisters and brothers in service to our senior citizens. These two nursing homes continue to house our Certified Nurse Aide Program students from both CTE centers as work-based learning sites. In addition, our vendor for the pastry trays, Zachary's Pastry Shoppe in East Greenbush, welcomes our REC Culinary Arts Program students for work-based learning as well. Many thanks to Emily Bluhm-Allen and John

A Different Kind of School Year

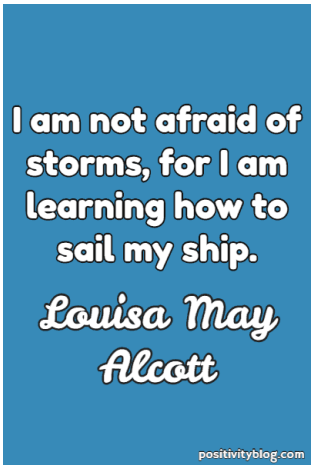
This sentiment has been put into action by our members. Serving as president has allowed me to see the impressive work that is being done across our BOCES by our members. It is truly an inspiration.

Thanks to the hard work of our membership, our programs are open and our students are learning. Let us approach the coming winter mindful of the impact of our work. As I said in my opening day remarks, educators plant seeds for the future. Though life may seem dormant in the winter, we know important preparations are happening for future growth. Thank you for your continued commitment to our students and our association.

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

Mahoney who volunteered to meet me at Zachary's to deliver to the nursing homes! We heard from all three, work-based learning sites that our efforts to honor them were well received! "Individually we are one color. Together we are a rainbow!"

In Solidarity, Your Past President, Hilary Reilly



Know Your Contract

Article 11: Teaching Conditions:
Section 11.18: Health and Safety

A. "The Agency and the Association recognize the importance to the educational process for children of physical facilities provided by component districts to their students. Employees shall report to their immediate supervisors, in writing, situ-

ations where, in the judgment of the employee, the physical condition of the classroom threatens the health or safety of the students in the class or is significantly different than the condition of other classrooms in the school building.
B. Upon receipt of such report, within five working days, the

immediate supervisor shall make an evaluation of the condition and shall prepare and submit a written report to the teacher and his or her Deputy Superintendent regarding what actions, if any, should be taken to alleviate or rectify the situation.

Shared Success

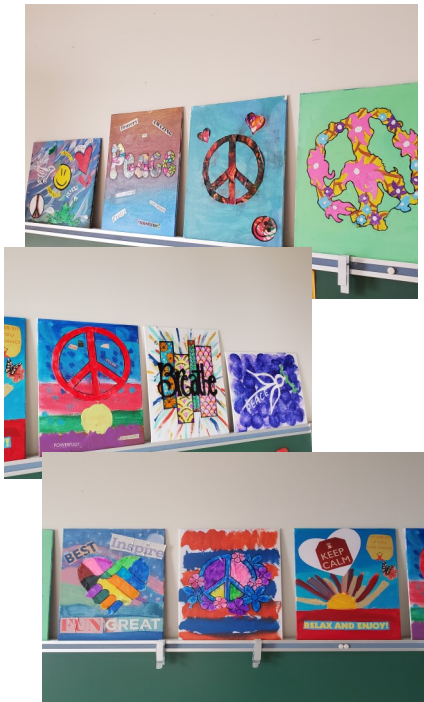
"Don't aim for success if you want it; just do what you love and believe in, and it will come naturally." -David Frost

During a Unique Learning unit on "Living with Rules and Laws," students in the Columbia High School NYSAA class had to answer the question, "What is a problem in our community?" We started discussing different issues that plague our communities including man-made issues and natural disasters. The students decided on the issue of violent protests that are taking place in many parts of the county. We talked about how the violent protests are not good for our society and can be very dangerous.

The next question they had to answer was, "How can we help?" With the input of the whole class, we brainstormed ideas and decided we could help by 'promoting peace' through artwork. The students decided they wanted to make artwork using paint and canvas, along with other materials. Each student had to chose a background that felt peaceful to them after researching peaceful settings using google images. They then painted their chosen

background and chose an image to color. Some students chose uplifting words or phrases from magazines to put on their artwork. Each student created a piece that is unique and peaceful in its own way. The artwork is currently being displayed in the classroom, and they are good reminder to be kind to others and promote peace wherever you go!

In Solidarity,
Emily Bluhm-Allen



What Ruth Bader Ginsburg Meant to Education

By [Mark Walsh](#)



"A prime part of the history of our Constitution ... is the story of the extension of constitutional rights and protections to people once ignored or excluded," Ginsburg wrote for the court in *United States v. Virginia*, the 1996 case that struck down the state's exclusion of women from the Virginia Military Institute, perhaps her most important opinion

in an education case and a sentiment that also reflected her votes in cases involving students of color, LGBTQ Americans, and students in special education....

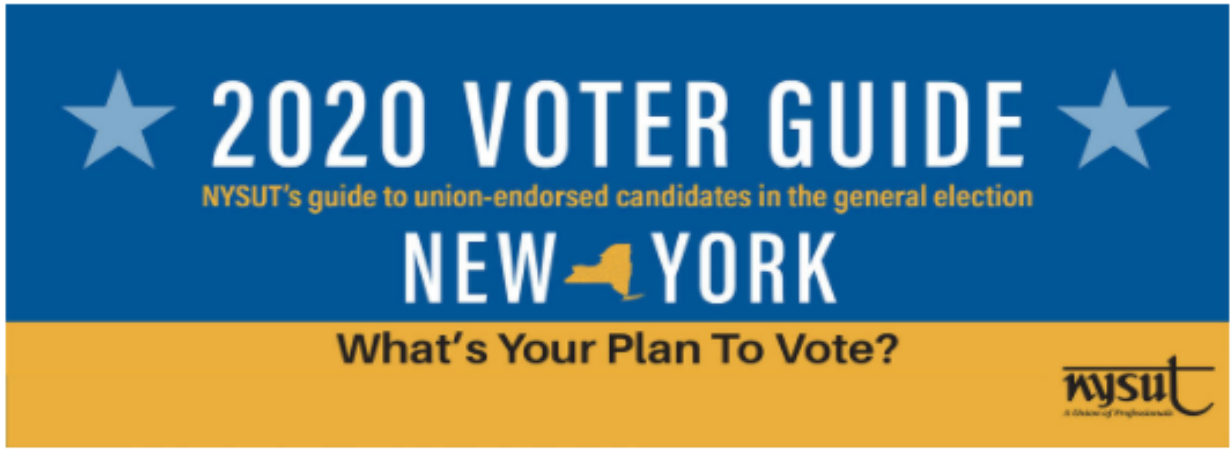
...."The presence of three female justices would "change the public perception of where women are in the justice system," Ginsburg told The Washington Post. "When the schoolchildren file in and out of the

court and they look up and they see three women, then that will seem natural and proper—just how it is."

Read the full article:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/school_law/2020/09/justice_ruth_bader_ginsburg_a_.html

"Real change, enduring change, happens one step at a time." -Ruth Bader Ginsburg



Voter Guide

We are pleased to provide the complete Voter Guide and special Retiree Edition so YOU and your VOTE can help move the state and the nation away from regressive corporatism and toward progressive solutions.

What's Your Plan To Vote?

OPTION 1
VOTE BY MAIL
Apply Online by Oct. 27
Ballot Postmarked by Nov. 3

OPTION 2
VOTE EARLY
Oct. 24 – Nov. 1

OPTION 3
VOTE ON ELECTION DAY
Nov. 3

nysut **NYSUT.org/Vote2020**
A Union of Professionals



AFT NO-COST COVID-19 GRIEF COUNSELING & TRAUMA COVERAGE

Our national affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers, is providing no-cost COVID-19 grief counseling to all active & retired AFT members and their eligible immediate family members. The AFT is also providing all active AFT members with up to three months of a trauma counseling benefit at no cost.

<https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/about/covid-19-resource>

Online Defensive Driving

Through the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed **Defensive Driving Program**, NYSUT members and their family members licensed in New York State can take this course online at the members-only price of \$21.95 per person -- a 27% savings over the regular course fee!

If you are the principal operator of a vehicle, you will receive a minimum 10% reduction in the base rate of your auto liability and collision insurance premiums each year for three years. You may also receive a reduction of up to four points on your driving record.

You can take the course as often as you wish, but only once every three years for insurance reduction benefits and once every 18 months for point reduction. This course is sponsored by the National Safety Council.

Please Note: The UFT offers its own Defensive Driving courses for UFT members.

Visit <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/> for more information on **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

**MEMBER
BENEFITS**
nysut
Working to Benefit You

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

