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Greetings for the New Year

My first year teaching was a difficult one. I will spare you the details but suffice it to say that many days were a struggle and I wasn't sure if I would be able to force myself to hang in until June. But time ticked on one day after another and before I knew it I had crossed the finish line.

At some point during that year I visited a funky little store where I found a plaque with words by Mary Ann Radmacher printed on it. They spoke to me so I purchased it, hung it on my bedroom wall, and reflected on it each evening and morning before heading off for another day in the classroom. It reads "Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow' ". I found comfort in knowing that each new day could present a fresh start and that encouraged me to keep going. I am glad that I did.

I have been reminded of these words recently as I struggled with the challenges of this pandemic and spoke

with others about the struggles they have encountered. Although each of us has been impacted differently, each of us HAS been impacted. Our students have as well. We have likely felt frustration, fear, anger or hopelessness at some point. We have likely questioned our work and longed for a return to normalcy. Perhaps like me you may be afraid that a return to normalcy will actually be some new normal, that the work we knew is changed forever. Likely it is.

New Year's Day really is just a day like any other. But symbolically it represents for us the inevitability of change. And with that, the possibility of positive change. As we look to the coming year we need to accept that things have changed. We need to accept that we are doing our best to cope with that change. We need to keep doing what we do, remembering the important role we play in the lives of our students and the larger society. And we need to remember that quiet voice at the end of the day saying "I will try again tomorrow".

The best part of serving as president of our Association has been getting to

know our members and seeing the amazing work that you do. Our programs are so unique and there is such a hidden wealth of knowledge and expertise that our members possess. It is impressive and inspiring.

Thank you, as always, for the work that you do to support our students, our programs and our Association. Without a doubt the work that you do has encouraged more than one student to face a new day with courage and hope.

I hope that each of you finds some time this holiday season to reflect on where you have been this year and where you are going. May you enter this year in the spirit of Mary Ann Radmacher's quote, embracing the new and trying again tomorrow.

In Solidarity,

Joal Bova

President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association

Union Updates

- For NYSUT updates visit nysut.org

A joint letter from AFT and NYSUT addressing recent social media threats

To our members:

This has been yet another tough week for educators across the state and the nation. Friday, a number of districts closed and all of you were put on high alert after concerns about school violence circulated on TikTok. It's sickening to see incidents like this happen again and again, and we want to update you on work we're doing to address this.

We were in contact with TikTok Friday, Dec. 17, about what they're going to do to put a stop to the disturbing trends

circulating on their platform. First, they assured us that they are working with law enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security regarding any threats that appear on their platform. Secondly, they have said that they are taking these issues seriously. Third, they have agreed to meet with us in January to discuss how to stem the spread of dangerous misinformation and disturbing trends that are creating only more trauma for our members, our students and our communities.

We will continue to engage with social media companies about this kind of behavior and monitor threats like these. We will continue to do

whatever we can to ensure your and your students' safety and ease the trauma and challenge of this school year. And we will continue to fight for the resources and support you need to serve your students. We are committed to being relentless on your behalf.

In solidarity,

Andy and Randi

Andy Pallotta, President
NYSUT

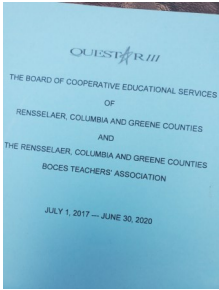
Randi Weingarten, President
AFT

See the article here:

<https://www.nysut.org/news/2021/december/social-media#.YcT9FDfZWtw.link>



Know Your Contract



Article 11: Teaching Conditions

11.21 Length of Work Year

The work year for all employees shall not exceed 182 days. Any employee required to work in excess of 182 days will be paid 1/200th of his or her today annual salary for each additional day worked. Nothing herein provided shall restrict the Agency in developing and promulgating a school calendar.

11.22 Inter-facility Travel

The Agency will make every effort to limit the amount of an employee's work-related inter-facility travel to an average of 25 miles per day. Actual mileage between work assignments will be reimbursed at the maximum rate allowed by the IRS. Every reasonable effort will be made to minimize staff travel in order to provide for efficiency in scheduling.

11.23 Teaching Materials and Supplies

- A. The Agency shall make reasonable efforts to insure that teaching materials, supplies and equipment are in place in each classroom at least one day prior to student arrival in September.
- B. Additional supplies and textbooks will be maintained for loan to new classes and to classes not receiving instructional supplies prior to student arrival. These will be available upon request to the employee's immediate supervisor.

Shared Success

"Next to creating a life, the finest thing a man can do is save one." -Abraham Lincoln

Jaxon Haigh Questar III EMT student 2021

Undeclared NYS Skills USA CPR /First Aid champion and Skills USA National champion

I had the pleasure of having Jaxon as a student in the EMT program, the accomplishments are amazing to say the least. These contests occurred via ZOOM which added more challenges to an already stress full situation.

For the NYS portion Jaxon was given ten skills he needed to master and on the day of the contest, four skills were chosen by Skills USA to perform. Skills included Bleeding Control, one person

CPR with AED, Anaphylaxis shock, and joint immobilization. He had a 100-question written exam.

On the national level 6 skills were a possibility and 4 were chosen on the day of the competition. Skills included one person CPR AED, Bleeding Control, patient assessment, and long bone immobilization. Two exams were given, one for CPR/First aid and one on Skills USA information.

Jaxon spent a lot of his own time practicing and reading 6 manuals to prepare for the written and hands on tests. I am very proud of our class who helped him every day prior to beginning of instruction. Additionally, the whole

CGEC faculty and staff for acquiring needed supplies and books and for setting up the room with cameras for the competition, especially Veronica Sherburne who was his victim for any skills on the days of competition.

Jaxon is a fine young man and is currently working as a NYS EMT with Greenport Rescue Squad in Hudson NY. Great job!

Written by: Rosemary Helinski



Reducing barriers to voting for people with disabilities

When you think of Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), you may think of a decorated combat pilot who, as a member of Congress, has made life easier for veterans, new mothers and babies.

You probably would not think of a person with disabilities who has recently faced a barrier to voting.

All of that, however, is true.

One in four people in the United States has a disability, making the disabled community one of the largest voting blocs in our country. Yet, they face enormous challenges in exercising their right to vote, starting with the most basic: polling place accessibility.

A helicopter pilot who lost both legs and partial use of her right arm in Iraq, Duckworth described how the last time she went to vote, she arrived at the polls to find that the only wheelchair-accessible voting machine was broken.

"You wouldn't think that in 2021, simple accessibility would still be an issue 30 years after passage of the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act], but it is," Duckworth told participants at a forum sponsored by the Albert Shanker Institute and the Century Foundation (link is external).

Luckily, the senator had come prepared with a prosthetic and managed to cast her ballot. But if a senator faces roadblocks to voting, think of how common those roadblocks must be.

[Annette Licitra]

See the full article here:

<https://www.aft.org/news/reducing-barriers-voting-people-disabilities>



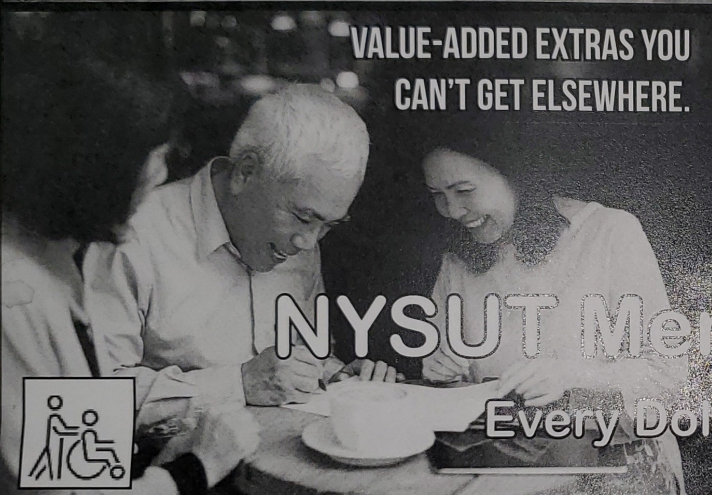
Check out all your union membership has to offer!



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VALUE-ADDED EXTRAS YOU CAN'T GET ELSEWHERE.



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NYSUT Member Benefits

Every Dollar Counts!

When it comes to protecting yourself, your loved ones, your income or your most valuable possessions, NYSUT Member Benefits has insurance programs that fit the bill. Whether you are looking for **auto & home, life, disability, long-term care, dental, vision, or pet insurance**, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

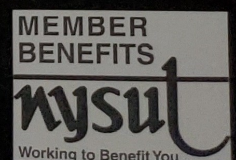
Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org. There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics.

Member Benefits also endorses several discounted shopping programs that can help you save on both everyday and more expensive purchases. Finally, if you ever have an issue or problem when using a Member Benefits program, our staff take great pride in their ability to quickly assist members with any concerns that may arise.

Visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** to learn more about the endorsed programs and services available to you through your union membership.



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.

Jan/Feb 2022

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

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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





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NEW PROGRAM! Member Benefits Discounts & Deals

Exclusive member access to savings of up to 50% at 700,000 locations nationwide.

800-406-6020

Bose

Discounts on personal and home sound systems.

877-709-2073

Buyer's Edge, Inc.

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

USERNAME: 215
PASSWORD: NYSUT

973-660-1001

Office Depot/ OfficeMax

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

855-337-6811, x 12897

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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.

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USE CODE: 213855

Avis

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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



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USE CODE:
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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

Connect America

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



The Power of the Union



Scan me

Call 800-626-8101 or visit
memberbenefits.nysut.org.