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Forward March!

I hope that by the time you read this you have settled into the new school year. I know that it was a challenging start for many of us. In many ways we are weathering the perfect storm. Three years of Covid craziness, increased student anxiety, mental health needs and behaviors, continued staffing shortages, a return to state testing, gaps in student

attendance, engagement and achievement, and intensified attacks on public education are just a few of the factors at play. We see reports that record numbers of educators are considering leaving. We hear this echoed in our own hallways and perhaps feel this way ourselves. It is a tough time to be an educator. If we are to survive this (and I believe we will), something needs to change. Or rather, many things need to change. That is where we come in. As I spoke about in my opening remarks at Orientation, the time to redefine public education is now, and we need to be the ones who redefine it. When faced with a challenge we have the choice to give up or to push forward. I choose to push forward. I am encouraged by those of you who are pushing forward and facing problems head on. We need to continue to speak our truth. If there is a problem, call attention to it. If you have an idea, suggest it. If you are given the opportunity to sit on a committee or offer an opinion, take it. This is how change happens. When we are forward thinking and solution focused it becomes easier to impact our world. There is a time to decompress and rest, and hopefully we are all able to do this. Equally important, we must then work to alter

conditions that led to frustration in the first place. Otherwise nothing changes. Our strength comes from our unity, our collective experience and our expertise. As educators, we have not only the right, but the obligation to share it. We have the ability to make our programs a better place to learn and to work.

Thank you for doing this everyday.

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

We want to make sure that you are getting all that you can out of your membership. Make sure you are receiving communications from us through a personal email. Check out our website at <http://rcgboces.ny.aft.org/>. Follow us on Twitter, @BocesRcg. If you have not already created an online account do so at www.NYSUT.org. Our Local is RCG BOCES Teachers' Association and we are Local 10175. Once you log in you will have access to a variety of membership benefits.

Don't miss the Oct. 31 deadline for student loan forgiveness!



NYSUT is working hard to raise awareness and help members navigate the PSLF changes.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness erases the federal student loan debt of educators and other public service workers after 10 years of service and 120 qualifying monthly payments.

To qualify, you must have federal student loans and be employed full-time (30 hours or more per week) by a public service employer, which includes all public school districts, higher education institutions and not-for-profits.

Apply before Oct. 31 at studentaid.gov/pslf to take advantage of the temporary waiver.

If you haven't worked 10 years in public service, it is recommended that you apply now to ensure that any payments that did not count prior to the limited waiver are counted toward your qualifying 120 payments.

In August, President Biden unveiled a new \$10,000 loan forgiveness program for Americans earning up to \$125,000 per year, plus an additional \$10,000 for students who received Pell grants. Cambridge experts suggest members should pursue both PSLF and the newest forgiveness programs.

Source- NYSUT Communications

See the full article here:

<https://www.nysut.org/news/2022/october/pslf>

Article 9- Leave

9.2 Personal Leave

A. Employees may charge up to three days against accumulated sick leave credits annually for the transaction of personal business that cannot be accomplished at times other than during school hours. Application for use of such leave, except in an emergency, shall be made not less than five days in advance of each anticipated absence for personal reasons to the designee of the Executive Officer and the granting of such leave shall be subject to the reasonable operating needs of the Agency. Employees shall receive a response in writing from the Agency within two days of the submission of their request.

B. Personal leave may not be used for vacation or to extend a vacation, holiday or recess period. An application for personal leave on a day immediately preceding vacation, holiday or the beginning or the end of a recess period shall state the specific business reason for the requested absence and the reason it can only be accomplished on that day. Any employee requesting time off for religious holidays, shall be granted such leave by the Agency, and it shall be charged to individually accrued time, if available, or unpaid, if leave is not available. Such Leave for religious holidays shall be limited to no more than five days for religious observances each year beyond those provided in Section 9.2(A) Personal Leave. Provided, however, this Section shall be effective on ratification and shall sunset on June 30, 2026

C. Except with the approval of the employee's immediate supervisor, personal leave shall not be available to any employee who has announced his or her intention to resign or retire during the month immediately preceding the effective date of such resignation or retirement.

Digital version of Contract:

<https://www.questar.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/tcachers-21-26.pdf>

SHARED SUCCESS

“The reward for work well done is the opportunity to do more.” - Jonas Salk

age stippling, body painting and bruising, character/periods and more.

The three biggest hubs for make up production are in New York, Georgia and California so Breeanna eventually made her way back to upstate New York where she started assisting for Stylist’s and Make-up artist’s on various TV and video production sets. She worked long hours on these productions, and I would hear from her from time to time and we would go over the ups and downs of the industry. Climbing to the top of where she wanted to be was challenging. There were obstacles along the way but I could see her growth from afar and I knew she had the drive and the stamina it took to get there.

Breeanna was breaking into a world of production that only a few get to experience. She worked hard and kept pushing, soon she was calling me asking if some of our cosmetology students could assist her with hair and make-up on various productions. Breeanna was busier than ever but wanted more than anything to break into the I.A.T.S.E. Local 798 Makeup Artist Union, which is close to impossible to get into. To get into the I.A.T.S.E Local 798 your list of credentials and work experience needs to be not only strong but the best of the best. It takes years of hard work but the rewards are many, creating so many more opportunities for the Makeup Artist’s and Stylist’s. Some of those opportunities include movie productions and music videos. Finally in 2021 Breeanna broke into the local 798. She is new to the union and has started another life journey now that she is there. Breeanna has worked on so very many amazing productions including:

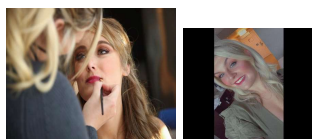
Film Production: (Pretty Little Liars – HBO), (Stay Awake – Netflix), Where Love Lies, Rogue, One for the Road , Venice the Series – 8 Episodes, Son Of Monarch, The Shed are just some examples of her work.

Music Videos: Reason by Madison Vandenburg (finalist on American Idol), Reggie Harris – We Can Change and 7 Hills (Music Video)

Commercial/ Corporate Videos: National Baseball Hall of Fame- 2021 Sportscaster Brian Kenny, Blooming skin Show (Beekman 1802), NYSIF Insurance CEO Eric Madoff- (Media Stream) Excelsior College Video Campaign, Schenectady Community College Commercial, History Channel A+E Network -History Hero Project “Family Ties”, Key Bank Commercial, Wyndham Worldwide.

The list is too long to include everything but to say I am so proud of her is an understatement. Breeanna knows full well hard work pays off and has experienced this head-on. I have had her return to the classroom even during the Pandemic via zoom to speak to our cosmetology students about her journey and how she started right from the seats where they are sitting. Breeanna is such an inspiration in what it means to teach and where the journey of education and life can take you.

Lisa Baron



The Cosmetology Program attracts many students who are generally interested in the beauty industry, but sometimes a student will try something different as Breeanna Nichols did. Her journey started as a junior cosmetology student in September of 2012 and she became very interested in Make-Up application in her senior year. Each student receives a small make-up kit with our program, to introduce the students to the basics of Make-Up application. Upon completion of our program in 2014 Breeanna enrolled in the Cosmix School of Make-Up Artistry in Fort Lauderdale, FL. for beauty production and special FX artistry. In addition to mastering natural make up application Breeanna also learned airbrushing techniques, injury simulation, old

Reading Opens the World!

Reading is a foundational skill necessary for virtually everything we do. It opens possibilities for all children to succeed—to learn and grow, to explore and imagine, to investigate and verify, and to lead fulfilling lives. Reading well instills confidence and helps reduce inequities. The disruptions due to the pandemic make focusing on literacy even more important, to assist our students not just to catch up but to thrive.

We have had more than 150 events in 27 states and Puerto Rico at schools, community centers, faith-based organizations and union halls, with many more planned to continue to spread the joy of reading all summer long.

The American Federation of Teachers' Reading Opens the World initiative focuses on:

-Giving teachers and school staff the tools and professional development that translate the science of reading into usable resources to help students read and read well.

-Giving parents and caregivers fun and research-based tips and tools to support literacy.

-Building on and forging new connections among families, communities, educators and schools to be partners in students' literacy.

-Giving children and young people free books to read, love and keep, because ...

Reading Opens the World!

Find the full article here: <https://www.aft.org/read>



**Hungry?
Need a car rental?
Looking for a good deal on a hotel or flight?**

The NYSUT Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program helps you make every dollar count. Save up to 50% on:

- Restaurant dine-in or take-out
- Groceries and food delivery
- Meal subscription services
- Clothing and shoes
- Oil changes
- Hotels and flights
- Car rentals

MEMBER BENEFITS
nysut
Working to Benefit You

MB Discounts & Deals offers more than 21,000 deals throughout New York State along with hundreds of thousands nationwide. You can even refer your favorite local business (restaurant, coffee shop, workout facility, etc.) to join the network and provide NYSUT members with a special discount. Don't miss out... register your account today!

Member Benefits is proud to endorse MB Discounts & Deals along with dozens of other programs and services that may be able to benefit you and your family members. Take some time to explore our website to find out how we can help you make every dollar count!



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. Sept/Oct 2013

SUPPORT LINE

New Peer Support Line offered

NYSUT Member Benefits has launched the [Peer Support Line](#), a confidential, peer-to-peer, dial-in helpline free to all members and their families. Staffed by trained in-service and retired individuals, this service will provide support and referrals to callers seeking assistance on a wide array of personal, family, and work-related problems. For more information or assistance, call 844-444-0152.
