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Past and Future

The last several months have been busy ones in terms of union activity. As you know we have been making progress in the negotiations process, meeting a few times a month. Hopefully we see a conclusion before the school year ends. We have also been discussing the replacement of our APPR plan, which is changing names to STEPS and will allow local districts more leeway in how teachers are evaluated within the framework developed by the State.

We have had members participating in several important events. These include the newly reintroduced statewide NYSUT BOCES Conference that took place at the end of February as well as the Fix Tier 6 rally in Albany

at the beginning of March. The BOCES conference allows us to build on the work that local BOCES presidents in the Capital region have been doing over the last two years, allowing us to make connections and share ideas and resources. Fixing the inequities that exist in tiers 5 and 6 of the NYSTRS will allow our newer members to have peace of mind that they will be taken care of after a career dedicated to caring for others.

Here at Questar we have made it a priority to be more active across the district including having an ongoing presence at Board meetings in addition to the president. Thank you to those of you who attended the meeting in February. We look forward to seeing many of you at the May meeting. And, of course at our Association end of the year event that will be held this year at Juniors in East Greenbush on May 28th.

All these activities, and the many others I have not mentioned, are possible only because of the dedicated volunteers who make up our Association Board and local building Reps. Thank you to all of you who are a part of that. I truly appreciate it!

Keep your eye out for updates coming throughout the Spring. As always, reach out with questions, comments or concerns. Thank you for the work

that you do each day in support of our students, our programs, and each other.

In Solidarity,

Joal Bova

President, RCG BOCES Teachers' Association

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 Local 10175. Once you log in, you will have access to a variety of membership benefits.

NYSUT brings together 15,000 unionists for historic Fix Tier 6 rally

Over 15,000 educators, firefighters, nurses and public

workers packed MVP Arena in Albany for the sold-out Fix Tier 6 Rally, calling on

state leaders to restore fairness to the state's pension system.

Click [here](#) for more information

Electrical Trades Spotlight

Electrical Trades program teacher Jonathan Bruno has been hard at work with his students this year at Gibson.

The Electrical Trades program provides students with a strong foundation in residential electrical work. A primary focus of the course is safety, which is emphasized as the most critical component of the electrical trade. Students begin by learning essential safety practices before moving into key concepts such as National Electrical Code (NEC) regulations related to residential wiring and the fundamentals of Ohm's Law.

Throughout the program, students gain hands-on experience with the tools and materials used in the electrical field. They learn how to properly select and use equipment, determine appropriate wire gauge, and complete common residential wiring tasks, including installing lighting, outlets, and 3- and 4-way switches.



A highlight of the program is the lab space, which features a fully constructed mock house built by the Construction program. This realistic training environment includes two bedrooms, a kitchen, bathroom, living room, and utility room. The house is equipped with a main electrical panel and meter, allowing students to practice real-world applications in a setting that closely mirrors an actual home.

In addition to lab work, students have contributed to various electrical projects throughout the

school. These projects have included wiring cameras in the Cosmetology classroom, installing new electrical feeds for lighting and outlets, and repairing existing electrical components in the HVAC classroom. These experiences help students apply their skills in meaningful, real-world contexts. Keep shining, Electrical!



ARTICLE 7 - Insurance

7.7 Declination, Withdrawal or Reduction in Coverage of Health Insurance

A. An employee who has alternate health insurance coverage from an employer other than the Agency, shall have the option of withdrawing from or declining participation in such plan, or reducing coverage from family or two-person to individual coverage, and shall execute any and all documents necessary to effect such withdrawal, declination or reduction. In the event of such withdrawal, declination or reduction, the Agency shall pay to such employee on or about September 1, or within 30 days if such event occurs during the school year, the following sums, based upon the benefits the employee received immediately prior to such declination, withdrawal or reduction:

Family Coverage or Two Person \$1,250
Individual Coverage \$500
Reduction in Coverage \$500

B. Effective July 1, 2022, if 9 or more currently insured members from the Teaching Assistants Unit, the Questar III Special Support Services Federation, and the Rensselaer Columbia Greene Counties BOCES Teachers' Association decline health insurance coverage, for the health insurance plan year beginning on July 1, 2022 then the declination payments will be increased to the following amounts for July 1, 2022:

Individual Coverage \$2,000
Two Person or Family Coverage \$5,000

C. Effective July 1, 2023, if the total number of declinations from the currently insured members continues to meet or exceed 9 declinations, then declination payments will remain at the \$2,000 and \$5,000 level as specified above. If the number of declinations drops below 9 currently insured members, then the declination payments will revert to \$500 for individual coverage and \$1,250 for Two Person or Family Coverage as specified in Section 7.7 A above.



[Access the full contract here](#)



Retirement doesn't mean entering a world of unlimited tee times and champagne coolies. It's important to be properly prepared for the transition from in-service employment to retiree status.

Please note the following information if you are currently enrolled in one or more NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed program(s) or would like to do so in retirement:

■ **If Your Local has a Retiree Chapter:**

You are encouraged to maintain membership and pay chapter dues to that local (if necessary) to continue membership in NYSUT and our national affiliates, the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and National Education Association (NEA).

■ **If Your Local does NOT have a Retiree Chapter:**

You will continue your membership with NYSUT, AFT, and NEA through the Retiree Council in your geographic area.

Member Benefits endorses a number of programs that can be purchased through the convenience of payroll or pension deduction – offering reduced premiums or the elimination of service fees in many instances. Approximately 88% of NYSUT members have payroll or pension deduction available to them.

You must have an active NYSUT membership to participate in payroll or pension deduction. If you're currently participating in one or more of our endorsed programs, you will want to look into switching to pension deduction after you enter retirement.

LEARN MORE

Learn more about continuing Member Benefits-endorsed programs by scanning the QR code, visiting mb-nysut.org/retireemembership, or calling 800-626-8101.



March/April 2026