

SPEAK OUT!



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From the President:

Vote NO on the ConCon Dwayne Cerbone

Please take a moment to grab your planner or digital calendar and together with me schedule the time that you and your family members will head to the polls on Tuesday November 7th to vote "NO" on the NYS Constitutional Convention (ConCon) proposition.

I have scheduled 6:30 AM, but you should feel free to pick any time between 6:00AM and 9:00PM to proudly exercise your right to vote in solidarity with our union colleagues across the state.

Please read with purpose the articles in this edition regarding ConCon, written by our impressive line of contributors. Of course there are other important votes to be cast this year but I cannot think of anything else you could do on November 7th that will have a greater impact your own family's financial future and the ability of NYS public schools to meet our primary mission. Please do not miss this opportunity, as it only comes around once every twenty years – thankfully!

NYSUT leaders and our members have been actively engaged in an educational campaign and in intensive phone banking to help shift the results of unfavorable surveys conducted earlier this year. Although impressive progress has been made, we are still lagging slightly behind.

Of most concern to me are the votes of uninformed citizens whose selection is more likely to be based on a skewed perception.

I hope you each take this opportunity to flex your educator skills by supporting our efforts to get the word out to our family and friends. If you need any assistance with talking points please consult the "Why in Five" signs on the PDTA bulletin board in your building, meet with your building political action representative and/or follow the message on PDTA social media. I am proud and grateful of PDTA's representation at NYSUT phone banking and we sincerely thank Karen Grace, Political Action Chair, along with the entire Political Action Committee for taking the lead!

I am also proud to stand with an impressive array of PDTA leaders as well as the dedicated members who serve our association and the district in various teacher leader roles. I encourage you to engage any of these leaders first when a challenging professional or personal situation arises for you. These concerns should not be solely related to contractual issues, but rather may address other important aspects of your work. These individuals are trained, professional, informed, and are best poised to assist you in a manner that protects your privacy and interests.

I encourage you to pause and wisely consider, "would I benefit from the support of my union in this situation?" This may include a discussion with a supervisor that has the potential to lead to any level of discipline, a colleague interaction that is not progressing in a positive manner, a curricular concern or anything else that can successfully be addressed by our own members supporting other members. Solidarity is not just for union rallies, it can and must be part of our daily interactions.





PTSA and BOE Updates

Stephanie Warchol, VP for Administration

As the PDTA liaison to the PTSA and Board of Education, I thought I would take the opportunity to provide you with updates on both organizations.

The PTSA membership drive for PDTA will continue through Monday, November 13. I was so amazed at the amount of members that joined during the Benefits Fair, and I know the PTSA is grateful! For every PDTA member that joined at the Fair or prior, they will receive two entries into our raffle for gift cards and PDTA apparel.

If you are still interested in signing up, please use the yellow form in the center of the district calendar, or [click here](#) and use the green, faculty/staff button. Every PDTA member that signs up between the Benefits Fair and November 13, will receive one entry into the same raffle. All staff may join

at the \$8 faculty/staff level, even if you have children who attend schools in the district. \$4 of this membership goes to the NYS PTA and the remaining \$4 supports Pittsford students directly.

Twice a month I get the opportunity to represent PDTA at the Board of Education meetings. During the meetings I take notes on pertinent issues that could directly impact the Association and its members. This also allows our union to gather information beyond the BOE agenda, and before the meeting minutes are posted to the public.

If there are items that members need to know immediately, such as budget developments, candidates for BOE, or changes to the budget vote, I will get that information out to all of you through our social media outlets, email, and my Speak Out articles. You can find the BOE agendas and minutes

[here](#) and [here](#). If you ever have any questions about the BOE, or would like to join me in the audience at one of the meetings, please let me know!

At the last BOE meeting we celebrated School Board Appreciation Week. We presented each board member with personalized thank you cards. PDAA, PDTA and PTSA also collaboratively donated \$600 to the KEEP Foundation in their honor. If you would like to send your gratitude for their tireless hard work, and dedication to the success of our school district, please click [here](#) for their contact information.

A sincere thank you goes out to our **Board of Education:**

President, Amy Thomas; Vice President, Kim McCluski; Ted Aroesty, Valerie Baum, Rene Sanchez-Kazacos, Irene Feldman Narotsky and Peter Sullivan.



Public Relations

Kelly Jordan

Dear colleagues, I cannot thank you enough for your support during this busy fall season! Thank you to anyone who donated items for our raffle baskets at the Benefits Fair, and thank you to all of our members who purchased tickets. We were able to **raise over \$800** for our student scholarship fund! Our PDTA Barb Shapiro student scholarships are awarded in June to one student from each of our Pittsford high schools.

Also, we thank you for your generous donations to our Making Strides walk for breast cancer. We are happy to announce we reached our goal and **raised over \$1000!** We hope you will consider joining us in this great event and walk with us next year! If you have any ideas how we can drum up more participation for this event, we would love to get some conversation going now about this. Please contact me!

Finally, we are thrilled with the response to our PDTA apparel. Thank you so much to Recognition Experts for their efficiency with this process this year.

Any orders that have been paid have been submitted, and Tom will personally deliver them to each school when they are ready. If you have not paid, when you submit your payment we will fill the order. Many members have been asking if they can still order apparel, and the answer is YES! The ordering is ongoing this year, so you can order any item at any time! Just submit your order directly to Chrissy Doggett at CRMS.

The order form is included on the last page of this issue of SPEAK OUT!

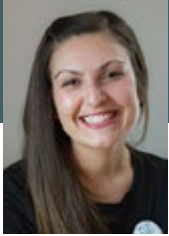


PDTA HIGHLIGHTS!

Shari Ebert and the Social Committee along with Kelly Jordan and the Public Relations committee members spearheaded all things related to the Benefits Fair. Kelly's team simultaneously coordinated the PDTA apparel sales and the Strides walk. These efforts to engage with our members and community are essential to the work of our union.

PDTA HIGHLIGHTS!

Paul LeVan and the Membership Coordinators in each building have been working diligently to assure that every eligible employee has the information and paperwork needed to guide their decision to become a member of our union. Our association is made strong and empowered by each of our members.



Overages and Overloads

Kim Chesko, Resolution Specialist

Now that we are all getting settled into our schedules and classrooms, it is a perfect time to share some information about overages and overloads. An overage is when a full time teacher teaches a class beyond their assigned workload or maximum teaching minutes as outlined by the contract. An overload is when a teacher's student enrollment is beyond contractual limits. In either case, if you think that your schedule or class roster is in violation of contractual language relating to class size, number of students with IEPs, or teaching load, your first contact should be your PDTA building representative. After that the following steps will be followed:

1. The PDTA President is notified by either a building rep or admin. (per contract language).
2. The PDTA President or designee and the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources engage in conversations.
3. A determination of one of the following will be made:

- No change may be necessary following a review of the facts. It may be possible to move a student who does not need the class, or student's 504 may be deemed to not have an academic impact in the class/course, etc.
- The creation of an additional section may be necessary. The section may be assigned to a part-time member, a teacher may be hired, or an overage may be applied [CBA 6-7]
- No physical change is made so an overload is applied. [CBA 6-1-2]
- Other creative, responsive, and mutually agreed upon options may be determined.

4. The building administrator is notified if teachers/department leaders need to be contacted for assistance in implementing the determination.

5. If an additional section is being added or students are being moved, parents are notified by Building Administration. Administration also notifies teachers involved.

6. In the rare event that an overage is assigned, staffing is determined by the building principal and the department

leader, following consultation with the appropriate staff members. The building administration informs the teachers impacted regarding any change in their assignments.

7. In the rare event that an overload is assigned, the administrator and the teacher meet to discuss appropriate supports. If traditional supports are deemed not appropriate or beneficial the Association and District will again become involved to determine an acceptable form of compensation. Administration submits the necessary documentation with Human Resources for compensation when appropriate. Any change in compensation will be communicated to the teacher(s) by the Building Administration.

If you have any questions about this process or suspect that you may have an overload or overage please contact your building rep as soon as possible, as time limits sometimes apply as we address contractual issues. Thank you for all that you do everyday for your students and colleagues!



Negotiations News: How Will the New Interest Collection Process Work?

Brett Burrows, Negotiations

Last month we stated that we will be collecting interests for the next round of negotiations and that we would start on Monday, January 22, 2018 (location TBD). Here is how we plan to do it.

We will all meet centrally at the beginning with some directions, then we will head off in small groups to discuss the things that matter most to you, our members. Each group will be facilitated by a PDTA leader from the RA.

Each small group will record their ideas and then rank order their list for next year's negotiations team. Here is some information that will hopefully give

you insight into the kinds of things that the negotiation team will have to work through with when looking at all the information collected on January 22.

1. We always start by evaluating the current set of Resolution Specialist interests (grievances) and any active MOU/MOA's (memorandum of understanding/agreement) that the we and the District have in effect when heading into the next negotiations process.

Grievances depending on the issue may generate new contract language or clarifications within the new contract. Active MOU/MOA's may continue as an MOU/MOA, it may be bargained differently, it may go straight into the

new contract as is, or it may "sunset" (end) as result of it not being needed anymore. Either way they all need to be looked at and decisions need to be bargained for the next contract.

2. Some issues we do not want to bring forward because once they are "on the table" whatever it is could end up as less of a benefit after going through the negotiations process. Therefore, if there is something you really like in the contract (we are glad), don't bring it forward as an interest (i.e. Health Insurance).

3. Not everything can be negotiated and interests generally fall into one of three

Continued next page...

Professional Learning Updates

Julie Barker



How do I receive Teacher Center credit when completing Professional Learning outside the District?

As part of the contractual requirement for professional learning, Professional Staff may receive up to 12 hours per year of Teacher Center credit for activities that take place outside the district. These hours are called individual initiatives and require your principal's approval. In order to be counted as an individual initiative, the professional learning must take place outside your regular work day and be aligned to your individual goals/professional responsibilities.

Process for Obtaining Individual Initiative Credit:

1. Complete the Individual Initiative Request form found on the Teacher Center webpage and submit it to your principal electronically or in hard copy.
2. If approved, your principal forwards the information to the Teacher Center.

3. The Teacher Center creates an activity in WinCap PD for the individual initiative and emails you the required outside attendance forms.

4. After the activity is completed, send the completed outside attendance form, or certificate of completion, to the Teacher Center for credit to be granted.

FAQs about Individual Initiatives

Can I receive individual initiative credit retroactively for professional learning?

Yes. Although it is recommended that you receive approval prior to participating in the outside PD, you can receive credit for the hours with your principal's approval as long as the request is coming within the same school year. You must have a certificate of completion or other evidence of attendance that can be submitted to the Teacher Center before

credit can be granted.

Can a School-Related Professional receive credit for participating in out-of-district professional learning?

No. At this time, individual initiatives are available to professional staff members only as part of the contractual requirement for professional learning.

Can I receive TC credit for out-of-district professional learning if the district is paying for my attendance?

Yes. It does not matter who is paying for the professional learning. A principal may approve any hours that relate to a professional staff member's individual professional learning needs regardless of funding.

Read about recent study grant activities on pages 7 and 11 of this issue!

buckets. Some interests are mandatory (i.e. salary, benefits, leaves of absence, etc.), meaning that it must be bargained upon demand by either side. Some interests are non-mandatory meaning that sides may negotiate the interest voluntarily-these are trickier to deal with (budget cuts, reductions in workforce, staffing, district policy, etc.). Once an interest is negotiated and put into the contract, then it becomes a mandatory issue. Finally, some interests are prohibited, meaning that neither side can negotiate something that they do not have authority to change (tenure rules, subcontracting with BOCES, Board of Ed rights, an APPR regulations, etc.).

4. We simply do not have enough time to address every interest. With the collective bargaining process each interest needs to be discussed at length in an order to make the best decisions for both parties. Some interests are worked on over several meetings and occasionally an interest will be sent out to a small group outside the negotiating team-which takes even more time. That is why we will need to rank order the interests we collect. We try to have a

good mix of interests that we believe impact the largest number of people and/or right the biggest wrongs for certain groups within the contract.

We look forward to seeing you and hearing about the interests that matter most to you at the January 22, 2018 General Assembly meeting.

STUDY GRANT APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED UNTIL NOVEMBER 6TH

If you are planning to apply for a study grant for this school year, please submit your application to the PDTA Office by November 6th. Questions about Study Grants? You can read more about them on the PDTA website (Documents – Forms) or contact Julie Barker, Professional Growth Chair.



Political Action - the POWER of Voting

Karen Grace

I'll admit, even as a Social Studies teacher, I used to be one of those people that thought my vote didn't matter much. However, becoming active in my Union changed my mind.

Union participation helped me see how powerful participation, mobilization and taking action is and I quickly made the correlation that voting is part of that. I also realized that in New York State, a state that typically has low voter turnout, my vote is even more powerful than I thought.

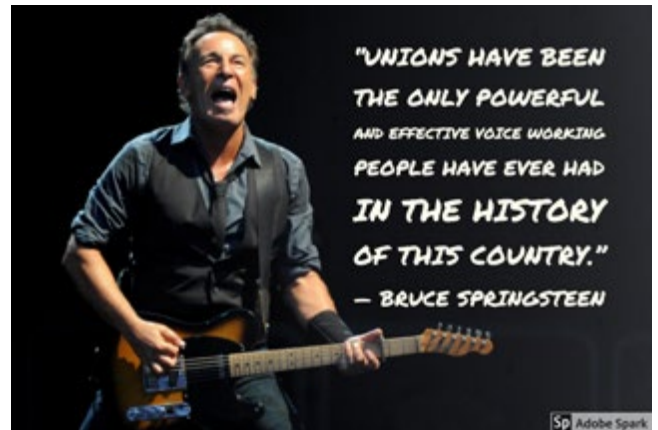
We are fortunate to have the opportunity to live in a country where we can participate and have a voice in our government and we should, no matter how big or small the issues are.

I don't know about you, but the thought of leaving the outcome of important

issues in someone else's voting hands, is not something I want to risk happening. That is why I vote and why I hope you will join me in using the power of your vote on November 7th to vote NO to the Constitutional Convention!

Thank you for mobilizing and taking action!

On behalf of PDTA/Political Action & NYSUT, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to everyone who made calls during PDTA phone banks to get the word out regarding why voting NO to the Constitutional Convention on Nov.7th is so important!



Given the many facets of society that would like to diminish education, the rights of workers and the middle class overall, we know that the collective efforts of unions has never been more important. Participation in phone banking demonstrates PDTA's commitment to those efforts and to the greater good of all of our members and for that we Thank You!

Make sure you also know your voter information and poll location. If you are not aware of this information, it can be accessed at

<http://www.monroecounty.gov/etc/voter/>

Monroe County Board of Elections | New York

Online Voter Application

Find Your Polling Place
 Check If You're Registered
 List Your Elected Officials
 View Your Ballot
 Check Absentee Ballot Status
 View Your Registration

Last Name:
 Date of Birth: MM DD YYYY
 House No.:*
 Street Name:*
 Zip Code:*
 *Required Fields

Start typing your street name to view a list of best matches. Pick your street from this list to ensure the street name used matches our records.

In order to view all of your voter information, you must be a registered voter. If you would like to register to vote, please [download the registration form](#) or contact the Board of Elections at 585 753-1550.

If you have moved since the last time you voted, the Online Voter Application will not be able to find your voter information. Please [download the registration form](#) and submit your change of address to the Board of Elections. [For more information visit monroecounty.gov.](#)



SRP Newslink

Lorinda Spring

Why you should vote "NO" for the Constitutional Convention

As your SRP representative, I feel that it is extremely important to share with you what could be at stake if the state holds a Constitutional Convention.

Q: What is a Constitutional Convention?

A: Every 20 years, the people of New York are asked a ballot question: "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same." This will appear on the November 7, 2017 ballot.

Q: What are some things that could be lost and how could this affect you?

- A:
- Access to free public education
 - The right to unionize and collectively bargain a contract on your behalf
 - A possible reduction of your

- pension/retirement security
- Protection for you from job injuries through the Worker's Compensation System
- Strong protections for your environment.
- A Constitutional Convention could cost taxpayers millions of dollars.

What some people may not realize is that the state constitution has been amended many times when legislators pass bills. This is a much cheaper way to make changes to the constitution and it doesn't cost tax payers anything.

As SRPs in Pittsford, we are working and educating our kids in high quality public schools. We are very fortunate to be represented with the teachers through our PDTA contract. Your salary and benefits that you enjoy are the direct result of your union advocating for you at the bargaining table. You have job protection because you are part of a union. Let's keep these protections in place by voting "NO" for the Constitutional Convention!

MONDAY, MONDAY

Monday afternoons are reserved for PDTA meetings. If you are a teacher leader, please avoid scheduling meetings on Monday afternoons to enable our PDTA leaders to attend their meetings representing you and our member's interests. Please share this information with any non-member who desires to schedule a meeting that conflicts with this agreement. Thank you!



Join us Tuesday, November 21, 2017 as we celebrate and honor Pittsford's School Related Professionals (SRP's) for all they do for our students and schools each and every day!



Remember: Be sure to TURN OVER the ballot and vote NO on Proposal Number One!! Here is a sample of the back of the ballot.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>PROPOSAL NUMBER ONE, A QUESTION</p> <p>CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION</p> <p>Shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same?</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input checked="" type="radio"/></p> | <p>PROPOSAL NUMBER TWO, AN AMENDMENT</p> <p>Allowing the complete or partial forfeiture of a public officer's pension if he or she is convicted of a certain type of felony.</p> <p>The proposed amendment to section 7 of Article 5 of the State Constitution would allow a court to reduce or revoke the public pension of a public officer who is convicted of a felony that has a direct and actual relationship to the performance of the public officer's existing duties. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/></p> |
| <p>PROPOSAL NUMBER THREE, AN AMENDMENT</p> <p>Regarding the Use of Forest Preserve Land for Specified Purposes</p> <p>The proposed amendment will create a land account with up to 250 acres of forest preserve land eligible for use by towns, villages, and counties that have no viable alternative to using forest preserve land to address specific public health and safety concerns; as a substitute for the land removed from the forest preserve, another 250 acres of land, will be added to the forest preserve, subject to legislative approval. The proposed amendment also will allow bicycle trails and certain public utility lines to be located within the width of specified highways that cross the forest preserve while minimizing removal of trees and vegetation. Shall the proposed amendment be approved?</p> <p>YES <input type="radio"/> NO <input type="radio"/></p> | |

Mark Your Calendars! January 22nd General Membership Meeting



Speak Out is edited and assembled by Brian Regan.

Your feedback is welcome at brian_regan@pittsford.monroe.edu

East Asian Art Study

John Yager

This summer, I participated in the seminar “East Asian Religions and Philosophies” in Seattle, Washington, thanks in part to a study grant from the PDTA to offset the travel expenses and other related costs. PSD staff are very fortunate that the PDTA makes such grants available to teachers so that we can expand our knowledge base and experiences in ways that will benefit the students in our classrooms.

The class was held at the University of Washington where the participants stayed in dorms and attended classes from 8:30 AM – 3PM, Monday – Friday in late July. Melanie King, a member of the Art History faculty at Seattle Central College was the class organizer and presenter. Ms. King’s background is in Art History and the religions and philosophies of East Asia. Mary Bernson and Yurika Kurakata (Directors of the East Asia Resource Center) assisted in running the seminar, which involved lecture, discussion, activities, videos, participation in a tea ceremony, and a trip to the Seattle Art Museum.

The participants in the seminar were educators from different fields (mostly art and social studies) and from all over the country. The content of the course focused on the major East Asian philosophies of Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism and Shinto. Since these philosophies make up a big chunk of the curriculum in both Global Studies 9 and AP World, there were a lot of lesson ideas and content presented throughout the week that will be useful in my classes. For example, instead of showing a video about the life of the Buddha in class this year, I will use an activity we participated in during the

seminar. Using the story of the life of the Buddha, the students will identify eight major events in the life of the Buddha. That activity will help them learn and understand some of the basic beliefs of Buddhism. Since there was a lot of analysis of art, I have added various paintings (like Spring Festival along the River) and documents (such as the Qin Dynasty Laws) to my collection of resources students will analyze in ninth and tenth grade.

As participants in the seminar we were given a binder of valuable readings from a variety of sources, which we were required to read before the seminar. Most of the readings are at a reading level too tough for most ninth and tenth grade students, but a few will be very valuable additions to my class. For example, there is a detailed description of the tea ceremony in Japan and a series of Jataka tales which are both entertaining stories and great sources which will help students better understand Buddhism. Most of the rest of the readings will continue to be a valuable source of background information about Taoism, Confucianism, Buddhism and Shinto.

I am very happy to have had the opportunity to travel to Seattle to participate in this seminar. The PDTA Study Grant is a valuable resource available to all Pittsford educators, and I strongly recommend that people take advantage of the grant. Travelling to other parts of the country, participating in high level seminars and interacting with educators from across the country is a great way to add to the learning environment in our classrooms.

Your Reps:

Building Representatives:

Allen Creek: Dennise Zobel
Jefferson Road: Julie Shaw
Mendon Center: Jill Drake
Park Road: Karen Socker
Thornell Road: Lisa Mauger
Barker Road: Kristen Dolan
Calkins Road: Melissa Althouse
Mendon High School:
Dave Larson
Sutherland High School:
Lynne Drake
SRP Representative:
Lorinda Spring

Assistant Building Representatives:

Kathy Rudd, AC
Elizabeth Kramer, JR
Patty Mayer and
Hendrina Schindeler, MCE
Jill Pink, PR
Greg Bischooping, TR
Karen Grace, Grace Kemp,
Tammy Cole, BRMS
Chrissy Doggett, Claudia Foti,
CRMS
Cindy Merrifield, Tom Kennell,
Paula Fink, MHS
Marc Hellems, Brian Schafer,
Amanda Marshall, SHS

SRP Representatives:

Lisa Backscheider, SHS
Radhika Ramesh, TR
Constance Bader, BRMS
Suzanne Kaier-Tuttle, MC
Maryanne Maland, JR
Sherry Tontarski, MC
Vicki McCutchon, SHS
Tracy Anderson, PR



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Pittsford District Teachers Association (PDTA) – A Union of Educators

5 Formative Assessment Strategies to Improve Student Learning

1. **Clarifying, sharing, and understanding learning intentions and criteria for success** – *getting the students to really understand what their classroom experience will be and how their success will be measured.*
2. **Engineering effective classroom discussions, activities, and learning tasks that elicit evidence of learning** – *developing effective classroom instructional strategies that allow for the measurement of success.*
3. **Providing feedback that moves learning forward** – *working with the students to provide them the information they need to better understand problems and solutions.*
4. **Activating learners as instructional resources for one another** – *getting students involved with each other in discussions and working groups can help improve student learning.*
5. **Activating learners as owners of their own learning** – *getting students involved in self-regulation of learning leads to improved student performance.*

Adapted from www.nwea.org/blog/2012/dylan-wiliam



<MHS
2015>

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You and your families are invited to place ads in future issues of SPEAK OUT! Rates for Members and Family (price is for one issue):

1/8 Page: \$12.50 1/4 Page: \$25.00 1/2 Page: \$50.00 Full Page: \$100.00

Above Rates are for copy ready advertising. If additional design or set-up is required, an additional fee of \$25 will be assessed. Space for ads is limited per issue. Checks should be made out to PDTA and mailed to the PDTA Office. **Ad PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT PDTA CHARITABLE EFFORTS.**

Send copy and questions directly to brian_regan@pittsford.monroe.edu.

PDTA HIGHLIGHTS!

Brian Regan's creative talent editing and publishing SPEAK OUT was honored with the 2017 First Place Award for "General Excellence" by NYSUT.



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BUILDING NEWS

BRMS:

Jennifer Rosenbaum and her family welcomed another beautiful baby boy into the world October 19th! Graham Eli was born at 8:37pm and weighed 9lbs 19.5 in. All are doing well.

Giovanni Maganoli got married last month.

MCE:

Patty Mayer's father passed away.

SHS:

**Kathy Riecke has recently lost her Mom, Susan Fisher.
Jennifer Lonardo has retired – best of luck Jen!**

Cut and Keep Reminders

Health Fund: Full-time staff members who are not on the payroll as of October 1, but who are on the payroll before February 1 of the school year, shall be eligible for a pro-rated portion of the health fund, according to the following schedule:

- On the payroll before November 1: 80% of the benefit
- On the payroll before December 1: 70% of the benefit
- On the payroll before January 1: 60% of the benefit
- On the payroll before February 1: 50% of the benefit

Part-time staff members of .5 or more shall receive a prorated contribution of the above schedule.

In order to receive this prorated contribution, staff members must fill out and submit the "Request for Prorated Health Fund Benefit" form found on www.pdta.org by March 1 of the school year.

Reminder--Dues will begin coming out of the November 15th paycheck.

The upcoming holidays can be a stressful time of year. Many times this season leaves people feeling anxious and alone. Please know you have a confidential and free service available to you through the Associates in Employee Assistance for this or any personal need. **PLEASE CALL AHEAD TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT** at 585-383-4478 or call toll free 877-327-2278.

Reminder for teachers: the Pre-Retirement Teacher Retirement System Workshop is scheduled for Dec. 7th. It is open to all teachers of any age and spouses are welcome! It is from 3:30-5:00 pm in the SHS LGI. Paul Farfaglia from Syracuse, a NYSTRS trustee is the presenter.

Please consider signing the [Change.org](https://www.change.org) petition asking New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to support funding for Full Day Kindergarten in the PCSD.

Digital Literacy Study

Liesa Ehrlich and Toni Baller

“Be skeptical of absolutely everything,” and never, ever position the words fake and news next to one another when speaking or writing.



These words, stated by keynote speaker Dan Gillmore, are just a couple of the pearls of wisdom (among many) that we gleaned while attending The Summer Institute in Digital Literacy at the University of Rhode Island this past July.

Institute organizers used a project-based learning model to skillfully blend explicit instruction (in both an expanded definition of literacy and the use of digital tools), hands-on practice, and opportunities for one-on-one conferencing.

In addition, there were ongoing opportunities for personal reflection, team building, and networking. Two philosophical underpinnings drove our work: everyone learns from everyone and take care to purposefully and meaningfully integrate technology into instruction.

Our summer foray began with an overview of the “12 Flavors of Digital Literacy” and a Four Corners Selfie Mission where we were encouraged to take selfies with participants who shared interests, motivations, or areas of expertise from which we could learn.

From there participants were introduced to the Personal Digital Inquiry (PDI) Framework and told we would work with a partner to create a

personal digital inquiry. We reviewed the Question Formulation Technique and then together with a partner generated our research question.

Our question was, “How does the media perpetuate or help resolve social injustice?”

Moving forward, we learned from keynote speakers, including Rhode Island Department of Education Commissioner Ken Wagner, author and professor of digital media literacy

Dan Gillmore, and other university professors and media consultants.

These speakers asked us to expand our thinking, to “reimage schooling” in a world where others are “shouting louder to be right” and “political discourse...is driven by heat with little light coming through.” We were encouraged to guide with wisdom, to teach students to determine “what’s real and what is not while taking into account perspective and diversity.”

In addition, we attended daily breakout sessions where we were introduced to digital tools, such as SeeSaw, Tess Teach, Flipgrid, Breakout, and Screencastify—to name a few, and shown techniques for using this technology to encourage empathy, reflection, and critical thinking in students.

Time was reserved

each day for Design Studio where we worked to apply what we had learned to our personal inquiry. Mentors were on-hand to answer any questions, and each day ended with an online exit ticket and personal reflection using Flipgrid.

Instructors used this information to help inform instruction moving forward. On our final day, we did a gallery walk, where we took turns presenting our project and listening to others present. For our project, we used Tess Teach to bring together a variety of sources and embed questions designed to scaffold thinking in preparation for answering our bigger research question on the influence of media on social injustice.

We are grateful to PDTA for choosing us to be the recipients of the study grant that allowed for this experience. We look forward to sharing our new learning with colleagues and are excited to see where our collaborative efforts take student learning.

nysut
A Union of Professionals

TRS Pre-Retirement Workshop
Thursday, December 7, 2017
3:30 – 5:00 p.m. SHS LGI

Paul Farfaglia

New York State Teachers' Retirement
System Trustee and PDTA President
will conduct the workshop.

**This workshop is open to all TRS
members (teachers and administrators)
regardless of years of service.**

NYSUT Member Benefits... more than just insurance!

As an additional benefit to NYSUT members and their families, your union membership allows you to participate in more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits.

These offerings include crucial products that you may already purchase such as life, auto & homeowners insurance, unbiased financial services and expert legal advice. But your NYSUT membership also allows you to participate in a variety of shopping, travel and personal programs that can help you save on everyday purchases and those special occasions.



Our endorsed shopping/travel/personal programs offer savings on numerous online purchases, including:

**Theme Park & Movie Tickets
Hotel & Vacation Discounts
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**Office Supply Discounts
Retail Store Discounts
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Car Buying Service**

Participation in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also gives you a trusted advocate ready to assist you with any issues or concerns with any of our programs.

Member Appreciation Month coming in February 2018!

As a show of thanks to the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that comprise this labor union, NYSUT Member Benefits will once again be holding our annual Member Appreciation Month celebration in February 2018.

Special prize drawings will be held each day of the month. To be eligible to win, you must be a member of our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

Sign up any time through the end of February 2018 to be eligible to win... but if you join MAP by January 31, 2018, you'll have the most chances to win!

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PDTA Shirt Order form October 2017



BA 5040



BA 960



Front of shirt



BA 5060



BA 3325



Back of shirt

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|---|
| BA 5040 Short Sleeve Tee | \$16.64 | \$18.72 for 2XL (all prices include tax) |
| BA 960 Hoodie | \$44.28 | \$16.28 for 2XL |
| BA 5060 Long Sleeve Tee | \$21.84 | \$23.92 for 2XL |
| BA 3325 Ladies S/S Tee | \$19.76 | \$21.84 for 2XL |

Checks made out to Recognition Experts

Questions? Email Kelly_Jordan@pittsford.monroe.edu