



Member Newsletter
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April 2022

Joe DiTucci, President
Jacquelyn Lanpher, 1st Vice President
Rob Allen, 2nd Vice President
Amanda Van Huben, Secretary
Cheri Hall, Treasurer

President's Message

I hope everyone had a nice Spring break. I'm envious of those that were able to travel to warmer climates. I was hoping for some warmer weather, but you all know how that goes in Western NY.

Recently the state passed the 22-23 New York State budget. According to NYSUT, there was much to like: There is the increased State aid, including increase in Foundation aid. This is the second year of a 3-year phase in period to fully fund foundation aid. Our governor has stated that she is committed to the three-year phase in period. For the 22-23 school year, Spencerport will see a \$2.3 million increase in Foundation aid. The budget also allocates \$100 million for districts to address student well-being and learning loss. \$125 million was allotted for the expansion of universal pre-kindergarten and funding for full day kindergarten.

The budget also begins addressing the pension system, specifically Tier V and Tier VI. Addressing the issues with the pension system is something that NYSUT is committed to with the goal of attracting more young people to the profession. Please see the recent NYSUT United publication for other important information on the budget. NYSUT President Andrew

Pallotta has been pleased with the budget process and has sung the praises of working with Governor Hochul. He has called her a breath of fresh air.

The NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) was held on March 31 to April 2. This conference is where the business of NYSUT is conducted. The representatives bring forward resolutions, debate them and finally vote on them. These resolutions chart the course for the next year. The Spencerport delegates are Rob Allen, Jacquelyn Lanpher, Laurie Palmateer and myself. The power of the Union is seen with the impressive array of politicians and labor leaders who address the delegates.

On May 17th, districts in Monroe County will be voting on their school budgets and Board of Education members. I encourage all of you to vote in your home district elections. This year, there are 3 positions for the board in Spencerport: 2 – 3-year terms and 1- 2 year term. Two long term members will not be continuing on the board. The STA wants to thank Kevin Hutton and Greg Kincaid for their service. It is a difficult job and both served with dignity and grace, always putting the needs of the students at the forefront of every decision they made. As we have done in recent years, the STA is engaged in reviewing potential candidates and will be sending out the candidates we are supporting. If you live in the district, we ask you to support these candidates and spread the word to your neighbors. We also endorse the budget and ask that you vote “yes.”

At this point, all financial adjustments based on our recent negotiations should be implemented. If there are any issues, please contact a member of the PAC team. An agreement that was made during our recently concluded contract negotiations was that we would convene a committee to review the APPR. That work is beginning. We will be in touch with any potential changes.

Elections for positions on the STA executive council will be occurring during the month of May. I encourage you to consider running for one of the open positions so that we can continue with a varied, strong leadership team.

At the April 12th Board of Education meeting, 15 members were granted tenure. Obtaining tenure in Spencerport is not a given. Reaching this milestone is a testament to much hard work, collaboration, and dedication. I congratulate you and wish you a long prosperous career in Spencerport.

In Solidarity,

Joe

The 2022 RA

By Rob Allen, 2nd Vice President

From April 1st to the 2nd, Laurie Palmateer, Jackie Lanpher, and I attended the NYSUT Representative Assembly in Albany, NY. The RA is the governing body of NYSUT in which each NYSUT local sends representatives to debate, and vote on, various resolutions for NYSUT to focus on in the coming year. This year marks NYSUT's 50th anniversary, and in addition to the usual union leaders like Andy Pallotta, Randi Weingarten, Mario Cilento, and Becky Pringle, Governor Kathy Hochul, NYS Attorney General Letitia James, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, and US Congressman Antonio Delgado (among others) all spoke in support of public education. The event also was a chance for NYSUT to celebrate members by giving out their yearly education awards.

The RA included three General Sessions, one on day one and two on day two, as well as Committee and Caucus Meetings where representatives debated and voted on a group of the 29 proposed resolutions prior them being brought to the General Sessions on day two for a full vote. Laurie, Jackie, and I all attended Educational Issues I, which included resolutions 3-6. Below is a very brief overview of some of the 29 resolutions we voted on (and passed), but if you would like to read all of the resolutions, or just read about the resolutions below in more depth, you can log in to the NYSUT web site and download them. You can also email me and I'll email you a PDF of the document. Finally, there were several Reaffirmations, which are resolutions from past years that our union is continuing to fight for. Two of these Reaffirmations focus on creating more equitable tiers for our members in Tiers 5-6, which is obviously an important issue for many of our members.

2022 Key Resolutions:

#4 Implement Developmentally Appropriate Grades 3-8 Assessments that Meet Students' Needs:

This resolution calls on New York lawmakers to change the 3-8 tests so that they are shorter and more developmentally appropriate. It also is calling for efforts at the federal level to allow grade-span testing rather than grade-by-grade testing, as well as to allow schools to use already existing school-based monitoring tools to meet federal testing mandates.

#5 NYSUT Support for Community Schools

This resolution is calling for every district in the state to have access to financial resources to develop community schools. Basically, community schools turn schools into

wraparound resources for entire communities and their families. At the moment, out of the 731 school districts in our state, only 296 use this model. This resolution is calling for dedicated funding in the state budget to create and support community schools, which includes the hiring of community school directors/coordinators in each district to lead this work.

#6 Strengthen and Diversify the Educator Pipeline

This resolution aims to take on the educator shortage, calling on New York state legislators and State Ed to strengthen pipelines for potential teachers, including TAs and career changers, through removing impediments to these candidates gaining teacher certification. Some of the actions demanded in this resolution include creating scholarship opportunities, creating career ladders and certification pathways, creating programs for career changers, and improving/streamlining the certification process to eliminate delays in certification. It also calls on school districts to improve the hiring of diverse teacher candidates through reviewing and updating their hiring practices to remove potential barriers.

#8 Remove the Punitive Consequences of Testing for Students, Teachers and Schools

This resolution calls on New York state to repeal its damaging and disruptive receivership law so that schools can actually meet students' needs rather than focusing on teaching to the grades 3-8 state tests.

#9 NYSUT's Support of Librarians and Libraries

This resolution supports both librarians and libraries (as the title suggests). NYSUT is continuing to call for all schools to have at least one certified library/media specialist (especially elementary schools). Additionally, as teachers and librarians across the country find themselves under censorship attacks, NYSUT is planning to collect and share best practices regarding material/book selections and collection in order to protect school and classroom libraries from censorship.

#12 Prioritize Funding to Support Hiring Critical Staff

Many districts in the state do not have adequate supports for their neediest students. This resolution calls for full funding/staffing of counseling and mental health staff, ELL teachers, special education teachers, and nurses. It also supports the Future Forward Task Force's recommendations that each school building employs at least one full-time social worker, one licensed school psychologist, one school counselor, and one registered professional nurse.

On April 12th, the Spencerport Board of Education granted tenure to the following teachers:



Elizabeth Corelli,
Cosgrove

Alexander Elkins,
High School

Erin Fredereksen,
Canal View

Thomas Kanaley,
High School

Maribeth Kyser,
Bernabi

Lisa LiPuma,
Munn

Meghan Lupinetti,
Munn

Ian Milam,
Cosgrove

Jessica Minicucci,
Munn

Colin Nobles,
High School

Heather Pahuta,
Cosgrove

Lindsey Pindroh,
Bernabi

Brandon Sartin,
Cosgrove

Amy Visca,
High School

Local News

Break with a Book – We will need to postpone this activity until the use of facilities in our community opens up. Hold that thought for next year!



Annual Food Drive – This was another great success! With the help of each school building, district office, and our new addition of transportation department and Board of Education, we were able to donate THREE full carloads to the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf. Thank you very much to all that donated. Our community is very generous.

Fireman's Carnival – Please save the date! June 8th will kick off the carnival and we will be having our annual book give-a-way! Feel free to join us at the STA tent and give away some books.

STA Happy Hour – It is this Friday, April 29. I hope everyone can come to kick back and relax for a bit! There will be prizes!



STA/Retiree Happy Hour – Final details are being determined. An email is forthcoming!

Thank you each for your support and hard work,

Jacquelyn Lanpher
First Vice-President

If you have not checked out NYSUT’s website in a while, go to NYSUT.org and click on “for members.”



NYSUT offers members a plethora of programs and services on a wide variety of topics—everything from deals on home and auto insurance to access to the AFT’s “Share My Lesson” portal.

NYSUT also continually offers webinars on topics important to educators. Webinars on student debt will be held this spring on 4/26, 5/10 and 5/26.

Link for Student Debt Webinar Registration:

https://studentloans.nysut.org/webinars?utm_source=NYSUT&utm_medium=Webinar&utm_campaign=SLD_ROPromo_Jan2022&utm_id=SLD_ROPromo&emci=cfc44f0b-8fba-ec11-997e-281878b83d8a&emdi=d7e31693-18bb-ec11-997e-281878b83d8a&ceid=181639

The Rochester Regional Office is seeking member feedback!

Look for this email in your inbox so you can provide NYSUT with feedback on these two important topics.



Dear Local Leader,

NYSUT is currently soliciting feedback from our members on two topics: High School Graduation Requirements and Grades 3-8 ELA and math tests. Please share this email with your members so they can share their opinions on these topics.

Here's the [Graduation Requirement Survey](#) and here's the [Grades 3-8 Testing Survey](#).

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carrie".

Carrie M. Andrews
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New York State United Teachers
30 N. Union St. Suite 302
Rochester, NY 14607
Phone (585) 454-5550

From the Editor's Desk

Finally, beautiful spring weather has arrived!

This weekend, my kids and I stopped by Chick Days at Higbie Farm Supplies in North Chili. We saw many families from their school, and I saw more than a few of my Spencerport colleagues there as well.

I stood with a teacher from another building near the petting zoo, and we talked a bit about this exhausting year. Wrapping up our conversation, we had both confirmed that regardless of what grade level or content you teach, or what building you're in, this year has been grueling, and we all share similar concerns and have similar sources of aggravation in our workdays! It can be very comforting to have your stressors validated by a peer.

Inside the store, it was hopping, filled with shoppers and children eager to see the baby chicks, ducklings and turkeys. As I stood in line with my middle daughter, I heard a voice say, "Mrs. Thevanesan?" It was a student from a few years ago, now in her junior year. It took me a moment to recognize her. It seemed like she'd grown three feet in height!

We caught up as the line inched along. She told me she is thinking about becoming a teacher. As she spoke, my heart was warmed by her genuine fondness for her former teachers and the love she has now for her high school teachers. We talked about her current teachers and classes, and she shared how fun many of them are. This past week, it had been a teacher's birthday, and another teacher surprised everyone with donuts. How often do we do things like this that seem small at the time, but for our students, it's a memorable moment that makes their day happier and brighter?

My daughter joined the conversation, as she wants to be a teacher, too. Last year, she adored her Kindergarten teacher and wanted to teach Kindergarten. This year, she adores her first grade teacher and wants to teach first grade. My former student and I talked about the differences between teaching younger versus older kids. She's undecided, but leaning toward younger. We talked about how still she has time to figure that out!

Sometimes it seems like the universe does what it has to do to meet our needs in the moment. This past week left me completely empty. Then, on a sunny Saturday, in less than an hour, a conversation with a colleague and a conversation with a student lifted my spirits and gave me some much-needed optimism.

In the December issue, I wrote about the teacher shortage. It's a serious problem, and attracting young people to the profession must be a top priority for school administrators and state leaders.

Because we teachers are doing our part. Despite everything thrown at us, we care deeply about our students and work tirelessly to create classroom environments where they feel safe, where they can learn...and even where can one day see themselves as the teacher.

Emmy Thevanesan
Newsletter Editor

Executive Council 2021-2022

Officers:

- President Joe DiTucci
- 1st VP Jacquelyn Lanpher
- 2nd VP Rob Allen
- PAC Chairs Sue Chatterton and Rob Allen
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- Canal View Elissa Kingsbury
- Munn Stacy Lonardo
- Taylor Danielle Blossom
- Cosgrove Janeen Henry
- Wilson Dan Pincelli

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- Ryan Ewanow
- Jennifer Ophardt

Canal View:

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- Danielle Blossom
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- Emmy Thevanesan

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- Rebecca DiNatale

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- Bridget Herrmann

Newsletter Editor:

- Emmy Thevanesan

Webmaster:

- Bryan Swanson

Political Action:

- Ryan Ewanow

Legal or financial concerns? NYSUT Member Benefits can help

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



Scan the QR codes below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

Legal Service Plan: For a low annual price, our Legal Service Plan provides unlimited toll-free legal advice; a simple will, health care proxy, living will and power of attorney; and guaranteed maximum fees for many legal matters. If a NYSUT member who is a current participant in the Legal Service Plan passes away due to COVID-19, the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco has offered to extend a number of services at no cost to the member's family.



SCAN ME

Financial Learning Center: We recently contracted with popular financial publisher Kiplinger's Personal Finance for our new Financial Learning Center. This interactive microsite offers numerous articles on a wide variety of financial topics, including selecting the best value in tax planning software and more. No matter your point in life or financial situation, you are sure to find something of interest.



SCAN ME

Mid-Island Mortgage: With our UnionDirect Mortgage Discount Program presented by Mid-Island Mortgage, NYSUT members receive special purchase and refinancing mortgage discounts for a variety of home-related needs. Whether you're looking to buy a home, lower your mortgage payment or planning a home improvement project, Mid-Island Mortgage can help you save up to \$2,700 on lender fees and closing costs.



SCAN ME

Cambridge Credit Counseling: Our program with Cambridge Credit Counseling can assist NYSUT members with better understanding their student loan re-payment and debt consolidation options. NYSUT members can receive a no-cost, no-obligation, consultation with a Cambridge certified counselor. Cambridge is also the provider of NYSUT's Student Loan Debt Webinars.



SCAN ME

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:



DINING & SHOPPING DISCOUNTS



TRAVEL & TOURS



CAR & TRUCK RENTALS



LIFE INSURANCE



AUTO & HOME



LONG-TERM CARE & DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR codes above.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.