

WFL Association of School Support Personnel

The Supporter

April 2016

Officers

President: Donna Arno

1st Vice President: Susan

Cristantello

2nd Vice President: Amy Owens

Secretary: Gail Gligora

Treasurer: Diane Smith

President's Corner

I hope this issue of the Supporter finds everyone in good health and enjoying a few days of good weather.

It has been a busy couple of months for the executive committee. Some of our officers attended workshops put on by NYSUT at our regional office. They offered a workshop for treasurers to let them know of any new updates on forms to send to IRS, what you should or should not add to the account with dues money, and what NYSUT offers to help local's and their finances. There was also one for our Vote Cope chair as well as some on engaging members, the constitutional convention and what could happen if that were to get passed and a few others.

A couple of the executive committee members went to Albany and joined in the Fight for \$15. I'm sure you have all heard about it by now. We did not get the \$15 in upstate NY but we will be increasing minimum wage over the next few years. Not enough, of course, but it will help a little.

A few of us also attended the RA, the Representative Assembly, which was held in Rochester this year. That is where the process starts for passing resolutions that could eventually be passed into new laws and regulations for schools. I was able to attend the Presidents conference prior to the convention. I attended a workshop for Engaging Members through Critical Issues, Field and Legal Joint Presentations, and Pledge to Vote: Your Voice is your Vote. We also met with NYSUT officers and we were able to share with other locals across the state on what we were doing and different things they were doing.

The executive committee also has met each month. We have created committees that we felt were important to our local to work on, such as The Angel fund, Constitution Review, Nomination and Election, Budget, New Member, Vote Cope, Communication, and Professional Development.

The Building Representatives also bring any concerns, questions or ideas back from all of you for the committee to discuss. So make sure you know your building rep is.

We are getting ready for our annual Spring meeting. Nomination forms have been sent out and need to be returned by US mail by May 18th. The meeting will be held at the Newark American Legion on Tuesday, June 14th from 3:30-6:00pm. We will be voting for: 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, and Delegates and Alternates. We will also have our Labor Relation Specialist there to speak about the Constitutional Convention, new Teacher and Level Three Teaching Assistant Regulations, and the importance of member involvement. In the past we have had speakers from the ERS system, Member Benefits, Vote Cope and Disability. If there is something you would like to hear about please let us know.

We will continue to work hard and do our best for you!

In closing I leave you with a quote from NYSUT President Karen Magee...

"Don't just pay dues, be a member, be active in your union, be the union!"

In Solidarity,
Donna Arno



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Save your sick time

There are many reasons why you want to save your sick time.

If you get hurt outside of work or need surgery, you need those sick days to get you through until you are good to go back to work. You may have purchased disability insurance to help with that. As state employees we do **not** automatically get disability insurance.

If you get hurt at work, you do get worker's compensa-

tion refer to page 14 in your contract for language on that. However there is a period of time until it gets approved. If you are out on comp and do not have sick leave, you may have to pay full amount of your health insurance.

Then if you look in the contract on page 20 you get compensation for the accumulated sick days that you did not use upon retirement. You have to have 20 years service. So please take a few

minutes and read that section in your contract.

It is really a good idea to become familiar with your contract. Yes, it is your contract. This current contract is good through June 30, 2017.



Family Medical Leave Act

BOCES is sending out an FMLA packet when someone has been out for three sick. This is concerning to some of those who have received these packets. We just want to assure you that it is not an immediate problem unless you are out of

sick time. None of what is in the packet will take effect until your sick days are all used.

NYS has also approved twelve paid weeks of FMLA leave. Before you get too excited this is a contractual

issue that will need to be dealt with in the next contract negotiations.

BOCES is required to send you this packet within 5 days of your being out sick for 3 days.

WE HAVE A NEW WEBPAGE!

It has been some time coming, but we now have a new web page for our Association. Here is the link:

<http://wflassp.ny.aft.org/>

You will see all of the Exec-

utive Committee Members. Then if you click on the Membership tab at the top, then go to the Key Documents you will find the Association contract, constitution, and past/present news-

letters.

You will also see items from the state and national affiliations. Please take some time to go and check it out.

Know Your Contract

On page 12 of the contract at the bottom of the page it deals with Bereavement Leave. It says the following.

Up to three days with pay will be allowed for each death in the immediate family upon approval of the Director of Human Resources.

The immediate family shall include spouse, children, and members of the same household, father and mother, brothers, sisters, grandmother and grandfather, grandchildren, comparable relatives of the unit member's spouse.

Bereavement leave in no way affects sick leave or personal leave and is not accumulative.



Clothing Allowance

On page 25 in the contract it addresses clothing allowance. These job titles assigned to buildings and grounds, shall receive \$125 per year allowance for clothing/shoes: Cleaner, School Chauffer, Custodian, Laborer, Messenger, Building Maintenance Assistant, Building Maintenance Mechanic, Carpenter, Senior Building Maintenance Mechanic, and HVAC Services Engineer.

If you are one of these people, make sure you use it before the end of the school year. Don't let it pass by without taking advantage.



Please contact Billie Brinkerhoff if: (bbrinkerhoff@edutech.org)

- ♦ You have anything that is newsworthy in your districts.
- ♦ You have something that you would like answered about the contract.
- ♦ You have information that would help everyone.

We are looking for items to put in the newsletter and on the website.

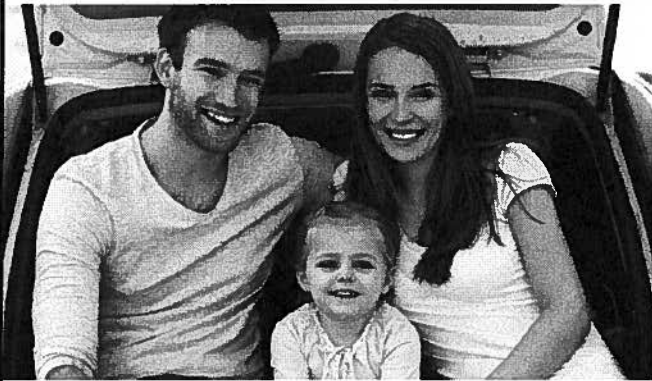
The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

MetLife Auto & Home®



Call MetLife Auto & Home to learn about the special savings and discounts you may be eligible for.

1-866-NYSUT-22

If you are looking for potential savings on your auto or homeowners insurance, consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home Insurance Program.

This program offers special group rates on personal property and liability coverage not available to individual MetLife policyholders. NYSUT members can choose from a variety of coverages that include auto, homeowners, boat, renter's, and much more.

Policyholders can earn extra discounts for good driving, multiple policies and anti-theft devices. MetLife Auto & Home recently raised the multi-policy discount on its homeowners insurance with auto from 7% to 15%. The multi-policy/multi-product discount on auto insurance with home remains at 8%.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101 for specific details about this program or other Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services.

MetLife Auto & Home is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 5.5% of total premiums for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.