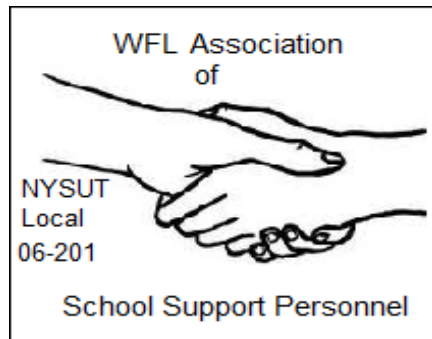


The Supporter



President's Notes:

Greetings Everyone,

I am a bit late in writing this portion of the newsletter because I was hoping we would have some news about our contract. As you may have noticed those of you who are off step did not receive a raise and those of you who are on step received a small portion of your raise because our contract was up as of July 1st of this year.

We have great news! Your negotiating team has been working hard these last few months to ensure that we have, what we feel, is a decent proposal to bring to all our members. As always we want to give you a chance to hear the proposal and ask questions. Since this is happening around the time as we normally would have our general meeting we are combining the two of them. We have to vote on building reps and the budget. We also will have a copy of the constitution with any amendments and we will have a speaker. The bulk of the meeting will be spent on our contract proposal. We are having our meeting on October 30th, 2017 at the Conference Center at the regional support in the Diamond room. It will start at 4:30pm. I am hoping with this much notice everyone will be able to make it. We also, according to the constitution, will NOT have absentee ballots. This is important to you and to the team that everyone hear the same information at the same time and to feel free to ask any questions you may have.

Please be sure to look at the nomination forms that will be in your mailboxes or emails shortly. We have several vacancies for the upcoming year. This is a great time to consider running for a building rep if you want to make a difference or make changes in the way things are done.

VERY IMPORTANT FYI.... NYSUT made some changes in the way we do things. This year they wanted us to send out notices to the agency fee payers to see if they wanted a refund on the portion they pay in for political action. We have already refunded that money. So if you decide you now want to vote on the contract you will first have to pay back the money and then fill out a membership form. I did not know that this was a change from prior years but I do apologize for the inconvenience this will cause. You do have to be a member to vote on the contract or to nominate anyone for a building rep or to run for building rep or any officers position. If you are not a member you can see your building rep or any officer for a form. We will also have some available at the General meeting and the night of voting.

In Solidarity,

Donna Arno



ON NOVEMBER 7

VOTE NO
ON THE
**CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION**



W-FL Support Union

CONTRACT VOTE

ELECTION of Building Reps

Proposed Budget Vote

One day only -

Monday, Oct. 30th from

4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

BOCES Conference Center

131 Drumlin Court, Newark

In the Diamond Room

- General Meeting
- Informational Session
- Vote open until 8:30 pm

Remember you must be an enrolled member to vote.

Saving your sick days, it's worth it!!

Working for an employer who allows the accumulation of sick days is rare in the current work environment and is a great benefit we have. There are two very important reasons why all of us should use the benefit to its fullest potential, 1) Money and 2) Money.

All of us from time to time get sick and have to take a day or two once or twice a year. That is why we have them right?? To take a day or two when we get a cold or a bug, it gives you time to get well again and not spread what you have to students and co-workers. Or even to care for one of your children when they get sick. Assuming not all of your personal days are used each year, most people will end up with five to ten days they don't use each year. These unused days will be added to your sick day accumulation.

If you are a healthy person, for example, over a ten year period and you average 10 days a year of unused sick time. That will give you 100 days of sick time built up; reason number 1 from above, money. That is 20 weeks of pay!! That is 20 weeks of pay you will receive if you cannot work for an extended period say due to a car accident or unexpected health issue. That is 20 weeks of not having to worry about where the money is coming from to pay the bills. That is 20 weeks of continued health insurance. This not only helps you and your family, but your financial well-being too. There are many stories out there when a bread winner of the family gets sick and they get caught under a huge amount of debt that takes years to recover from, if at all.

As for reason #2, you like money right? Assuming you are healthy and you have a nice 23 year career at WFL Boces, continuing to average 10 days a year going in to unused sick time. We are now talking 230 days, that is 46 weeks of pay!! To keep the numbers simple say your gross pay per day is \$100. Based on the contract that expired at the end of June 2017, 230 days of sick time comes out to \$23,000.....A very nice retirement present to yourself. You can do one of two things with this money: 1) Use it to pay for health insurance during your retirement or 2) have it deposited in to a 403b account and use it to supplement your retirement income.

Something else to keep in mind is we receive our sick time upfront but it still has to be earned. What does this mean, here is an example. If you use all of your sick time the first half of the year and decide to resign from your position. Half of that

sick time has not been earned and you will have to pay WFL Boces back for the sick time you have used but have not earned.

Bottom line , if you are sick please use your sick days to help yourself, your students and co-workers out by not getting them sick as well. But if you are sick of work and take a sick day, think about how much it will cost you in the long run.



ON NOVEMBER 7

VOTE NO
ON THE
**CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION**



The **CON** in the constitutional convention

According to the state constitution, every 20 years New York voters are asked to give thumbs up or down on a simple referendum: "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?"

The question will appear at the top of the ballot on Nov. 7, 2017.

"They say there are pros and cons to every issue," said NYSUT Vice President Paul Pecorale, "but I see only cons in this 'Con Con.'"

THREE key reasons

Here are three key reasons why a state constitutional convention should be rejected:

1. The constitution establishes the basic organizational structure for state government as we know it. A convention would place everything on the table and delegates would have the power to swipe away any of the policies, programs and protections we might take for granted.

For example, the delegates — who could be political party appointees or even sitting elected officials — could decide to alter the balance of power. With enough votes, they could give much more power to the executive branch and significantly weaken the role of the Legislature. We all know how much the Legislature has done to amend and repair the damaging executive budget proposals we've seen in recent years.



Concentrating unchecked power could be a disaster.

2. The constitution establishes the fundamental rights every NYSUT member enjoys as a citizen of the state, as a public employee or as a retired public employee.

It guarantees the right of all state residents to a free public education; establishes your rights to be a member of a union and to bargain collectively; prohibits reductions in public pension benefits; provides workers compensation; and requires that the state provide for social welfare needs. It provides the "Forever Wild" statute that protects the Adirondack and Catskill parks. Imagine New York State without those things.

3. The constitution sets the most important policy goals for the people of New York State. Any changes would affect every other law in place, as well as future statutes.

Think about what happened in 1967: Voters approved the call for a convention and what resulted was a number of bad constitutional proposals, including a repeal of the "Blaine Amendment," which prohibits the use of state monies to assist religious schools.

That issue continues to be debated today, and NYSUT annually fends off efforts by privatization advocates and religious schools to establish backdoor voucher schemes funded by the state.

The catch 50 years ago was that, after voting to authorize a constitutional convention, voters had the opportunity to accept or reject the proposed changes. New Yorkers rejected the convention's proposed revisions, including a repeal of the Blaine Amendment. Had voters not rejected the repeal of Blaine, public education would look very different in New York State today.

"In an off-election year, the referendum on a constitutional convention is going to be one of the biggest votes our members face, and we need to get out the vote and defeat it," said NYSUT Executive Vice President Andy Pallotta.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

■ The constitutionally required 20-year referendum to propose a constitutional convention will be on the Nov. 7, 2017 ballot.

■ If it passes, three delegates per state Senate district and 15 at-large delegates — 204 in total — would be elected at the next general election, in November 2018.

■ Delegates can include members of the Legislature or other elected officials, as well as political party leaders — and they can hold both positions, collecting both salaries.

■ The convention would meet in Albany in 2019 for an unspecified duration, and then publish its suggested amendments.

■ Any proposed changes are submitted to voters for approval separately or as a group for another public referendum no sooner than six weeks after the convention adjourns.

Officers:

President – Donna Arno

1st Vice President – Susan Cristantello

2nd Vice President – Amy Owens

Secretary – Gail Gligora

Treasurer – Diane Smith

Building Reps:

Edutech Shared Staff –

FLSS – Dawn Goda

FLTCC – Cheryl Shields

LeRoy – Dean Ginder

MEC – Penny Vanderlinde & Carol Wright

NEC – Cindy Lee / Donna King

Newark RSC Campus –

REC – Bea Knowlton

WEC – Joe Benicasa

Have you had your financial check-up lately?

NYSUT Member Benefits launches the new Financial Planning Center!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the launch of our NEW online Financial Planning Center. This enhanced site will assist NYSUT members and their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center provides helpful tools and resources to assist members with a number of crucial decisions regarding financial wellness and retirement planning.



This new site includes more than 100 modules on different financial topics along with a financial fitness check-up to see where members stand with their financial knowledge.

Whether it's planning for retirement, saving for college for your children or considering purchasing a home, the choices we need to make on a regular basis are never easy. If you're already enjoying retirement, you may be dealing with long-term care needs, managing your investments and estate planning.

NYSUT members can get assistance with these questions and more with our NEW Financial Planning Center.

To access the Financial Planning Center (and more than 100 planning modules), visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** and click on ***“Financial Planning Center.”***

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** or call **800-626-8101**.



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.