

# 2007 NYSUT HEALTH AND SAFETY CONFERENCE

March 9-10, 2007

The Crowne Plaza Hotel ♦ Albany, New York

## P R O G R A M

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 2007

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12:00 P.M.

**REGISTRATION  
EXHIBITS AND DEMONSTRATIONS**

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

**WORKSHOP SESSION I: Foundation Workshops on Key Topics.**  
*These workshops provide fundamental information and skills on health and safety topics.*

### **1. HEALTH AND SAFETY 101**

*In this workshop you will examine a variety of workplace hazards, recognize the laws and/or regulations that apply to these hazards and identify the importance of local safety and health committees. This will be an informative introduction to the world of health and safety and the resources available to NYSUT members.*

**Presenters:** Katherine Kelleher, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist, Capital District Regional Office;*  
Albert Comfort, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist, Elmira Regional Office*  
**Moderator:** Margaret Sergent, *Rochester Teachers Association*

### **2. CHEMICAL HAZARD RECOGNITION, STORAGE AND DISPOSAL FOR COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

*Colleges and universities house large amounts of hazardous chemicals: in science departments, research centers, facilities maintenance and art departments. This session will touch on how chemicals should be managed; what EPA and OSHA look for and what local unions should be asking campus administrators to protect the health and safety of employees. This session would also be useful to high school science and art instructors and custodial and maintenance personnel.*

**Presenter:** Andrew Burgie, *Associate Director, Center for Occupational and Environmental Health at Hunter College of the City University of New York*  
**Moderator:** David Kotelchuck, *Professional Staff Congress*

### **3. WORKPLACE VIOLENCE**

*Effective violence prevention for any workplace has common elements: a clearly written workplace anti-violence policy, risk assessment, hazard prevention and control methods, employee training and education, medical management and*

*counseling, recordkeeping and ongoing program evaluation. Participants will share their experiences confronting workplace violence and how to use these elements to effectively deal with the problem.*

**Presenter:** Linda Passione, *Violence Prevention Training Facilitator, United Federation Teachers*

**Moderator:** Nancy Pasquale, *Solvay TA*

#### **4. UNDERSTANDING STUDENT DISABILITIES**

*You will acquire a general understanding of the 13 disability categories and key concepts related to the education of students with disabilities. In addition, you will experience what it is like to have a disability and learn strategies for improving student learning and behavior. This session will also provide strategies that can be used to support students with autism. Topics include: characteristics of autism and Asperger's Syndrome; specific techniques for normalizing environments; reducing disruptive behavior, and enhancing language and social skills.*

**Presenter:** Michele DeFelice, *Instructor, Education and Learning Trust*

**Moderator:** Sheridan Burleigh, *Saratoga Adirondack BOCES EA*

#### **5. INDOOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

*What determines good indoor environmental quality (IEQ)? Following a short discussion on the distinction between indoor air pollution and IEQ, this workshop will highlight various sources of poor IEQ, tying symptoms to building conditions, the special problems of mold and what steps to take with the employer and any outside consultants on measuring, testing and determining a course of action. Participants will see a virtual building tour to illustrate conditions. Some tips on deciphering consultant reports will also be discussed.*

**Presenters:** John VanRaalte, *CIH, Director of Industrial Hygiene Services, Occupational and Environmental Health Center of Eastern New York;*  
Amy Baruth, *Health and Safety Consultant, American Federation of Teachers*

**Moderator:** Raymond Pitcher, *Herkimer FA*

**1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

**CPR/AED (Pre-registration required)**

*The American Heart Association Heartsaver AED (Automated External Defibrillator) course was the first in the nation to combine hands-on AED instruction with adult CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) training. The Heartsaver AED course is for individuals who need to learn CPR and how to operate an AED. Please note that you must be in attendance for the entire four-hour course in order to receive a certificate of completion.*

**Presenter:** Gregory J. Chapman, *RRT, REMT-P, Paramedic Program Coordinator, Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic, Hudson Valley Community College, Certified with the American Heart Association.*

**Moderator:** Andrea Domst, *United University Professions, SUNY Fredonia Chapter*

6:00 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.

**DINNER**

7:15 P.M. - 8:45 P.M.

**OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

**Welcome and Opening Remarks:**

Kathleen M. Donahue, *NYSUT Vice President*

Doug Cody, *NYSUT Health and Safety Task Force Chairperson, Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers*

**Keynote Speaker:**

Vi Paramore, *President, Jefferson County Federation of Teachers, Alabama, an affiliate of American Federation of Teachers*

**Closing Song:** “*We Just Come To Work Here*”, by Anne Feeney

Karen Sullivan, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist, Potsdam Regional Office*

8:45 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

**WELCOME RECEPTION**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 2007**

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7:30 A.M. - 8:45 A.M.

**BREAKFAST BUFFET**

8:00 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.

**REGISTRATION & EXHIBITS**

8:45 A.M. - 10:30 A.M.

**WORKSHOP SESSION II: Health and Safety Issues.** *This series prepares you for everyday and emergency situations.*

**6. EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS/EVACUATIONS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

*Ice storms, hurricanes, chemical emergencies and power outages are some examples of emergencies our members face. This workshop explores the critical elements for workplace readiness, such as effective emergency preparedness and evacuation drills; evacuating persons with disabilities; using incident command structures for effective responses, and most importantly, getting involved in the design and implementation of these plans.*

**Presenter:** Maureen M. Kotlas, *CSP, Director, Department of Environmental Safety, University of Maryland, College Park*

**Moderator:** Sean Tvelia, *Faculty Association of Suffolk Community College*

## 7. BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION

*Major construction and renovation projects often take place while buildings are occupied. Staff, students and clients can develop serious health problems if construction is not properly isolated from occupied areas. This workshop will help members examine possible health effects from construction/renovation activities, review proper isolation techniques that protect building occupants, and highlight laws, policies and regulations that could help locals work towards a resolution.*

**Presenter:** Christine Proctor, *Industrial Hygienist, United Federation of Teachers*

**Moderator:** Theresa Samuels, *United Federation of Teachers*

## 8. ADA ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

*Many campuses are not in compliance with accessibility laws, creating problems for disabled staff and students. This workshop will acquaint participants with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other relevant laws and regulations and how they impact a college campus. Other issues such as emergency evacuation of the disabled will also be discussed.*

**Presenter:** Linda M. Volpe, *Compliance Specialist, Accessibility Services, A Program of United Spinal Association*

**Moderator:** To be announced

## 9. PESH AND OSHA BASICS / OSHA TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

*This introductory session will educate participants about New York State's Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau (PESH) and the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Learn the who, what, where and why of these agencies that protect workers. Participants will also be given an overview of OSHA / PESH training requirements.*

**Presenter:** Joe Fuller, *Senior Safety and Health Inspector, Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau, New York State Department of Labor*

**Moderator:** David Kotelchuck, *Professional Staff Congress*

(Workshop Change)

## 10. CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS

*This workshop will cover general issues of workplace cancer and how to determine what a "cancer cluster" is. Specific chemical exposures linked to breast cancer will be reviewed. Evidence that certain types of cancer, particularly breast cancer, seem to be overrepresented in the teaching profession will be discussed.*

**Presenters:** Carmi Orenstein, *MPH, Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors, Cornell University;*

Nellie Brown, *CIH, Director, Workplace Health and Safety Programs, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations*

**Moderator:** Andrea Domst, *United University Professions, SUNY Fredonia Chapter*

## **11. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION**

*This workshop will educate you on how NYS Civil Service Law and NYS Human Rights Law can protect you as a worker. Learn the relationship between Civil Service Law section 75-b and Whistleblower protection. Also, learn about the relationship between the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and NYS Human Rights Law.*

**Presenter:** To be announced

**Moderator:** Raymond Pitcher, *Herkimer FA*

## **12. BUILDING SECURITY AND GANG AWARENESS**

*This multi-media presentation will focus on the ever-growing problem of gang culture and how to deal with this epidemic. The training will discuss how communities, schools, and law enforcement agencies can be proactive in implementing prevention and intervention methods. Session highlights include: updated gang identification training; identifying personal stereotypes of gang members that may affect a therapeutic relationship; identifying personal areas of vulnerability that may need to be addressed and identifying facility policy/procedures, implementing zero tolerance.*

*WARNING: Graphic Images and Pictures*

**Presenter:** Ron “Cook” Barrett, *Capital Region Gang Prevention Specialist, Department of Youth and Workforce Services, Albany*

**Moderator:** Sheridan Burleigh, *Saratoga Adirondack BOCES EA*

**10:30 A.M. - 10:45 A.M. Morning Break**

**10:45 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. WORKSHOP SESSION III: Tools for Information and Investigation.** *Strengthen your ability to analyze your workplace and mobilize your members on their issues.*

## **13. HAZARDS MAPPING**

*Hazards mapping is a technique to identify hazardous locations and conditions at a workplace. It can be used to set priorities and develop long-range plans, identify any number of hazards and can serve as an on-going visual record. This session will introduce participants to mapping and give hands-on skills on how to map hazards and identify sites of potential hazards, or “danger zones” and show where individuals in need of help are located. Whether you are new to mapping or want to refresh your skills, this workshop is for you.*

**Presenter:** Amy Baruth, *Health and Safety Consultant, American Federation of Teachers*

**Moderator:** Margaret Sergent, *Rochester Teachers Association*

## **14. EFFECTIVE INSPECTIONS**

*Conducting inspections is one of the most valuable tools used to identify hazards and hazardous conditions. There are many types of inspections for different scenarios and situations. Learn the basic types of inspections and how to conduct an inspection,*

*including using photography. Participants will be given various inspection tools and checklists that will assist them in the process.*

**Presenter:** Mark Stipano, CIH, CSP, *Industrial Hygiene Specialist, Civil Service Employees Association*

**Moderator:** Robert Wurman, *Professional Staff Congress*

## **15. WORKERS' COMPENSATION OVERVIEW**

*This workshop provides an overview of illnesses and injuries on the job, how to file a claim, track the progress of the claim and pay your medical bills. Examples of workplace injuries and illnesses including cases related to mold and stress will be discussed.*

**Presenters:** Marvin Anderman, Esq. and Christine Grosse, *Fine, Olin, Anderman, LLP*

**Moderator:** Raymond Pitcher, *Herkimer FA*

## **16. JOB HAZARD ANALYSIS**

*A job hazard analysis is a technique that focuses on job tasks as a way to identify hazards before injuries occur. It focuses on the relationship between the worker, the task, the tools, and the work environment. Once completed, the job hazard analysis is used to determine what measures are required to safely eliminate or reduce hazards.*

**Presenter:** Joe Fuller, *Senior Safety and Health Inspector, Public Employee Safety and Health Bureau, New York State Department of Labor*

**Moderator:** Douglas Cody, *NYSUT Health and Safety Task Force Chairperson, Nassau Community College Federation of Teachers*

## **17. CONDUCTING EFFECTIVE SURVEYS**

*Any union-building strategy to deal with a workplace safety and health hazard requires input from the membership. Effective surveys can arm union leaders and activists with specific information about a problem and the needs of the membership. Effective surveys will better prepare activists for bargaining with management, working with NYSUT health and safety and interacting with enforcement agencies. Attend this workshop and learn how to write, distribute, and process effective member surveys.*

**Presenter:** Matt London, *Health and Safety Grant Coordinator, New York State Public Employees Federation*

**Moderator:** Nancy Pasquale, *Solvay TA*

## **18. LEGAL RIGHTS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION**

*Information is power, and you have every right to it! Several laws require employers to provide safety and health information, upon request, to employees and designated employee representatives. Attend this workshop and find out exactly what information you are entitled to and how to get it.*

**Presenters:** Susan McQuade, *Health and Safety Specialist, New York Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NYCOSH)*;  
Susan Reinfurt, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist, Capital District Regional Office*

**Moderator:** To be announced

### **19. OSHA 300 and SH-900: ANALYZING THE LOG OF REPORTABLE INJURIES**

*No single source of information can be more useful in analyzing illness and injury data than the Log of Work Related Injuries and Illnesses required by federal OSHA and by PESH. Employers are required to report all occupational injuries and illnesses that require more than first aid to the Department of Labor on the SH-900 form. Learn the basics of the recordkeeping standard and how to analyze the log to identify injury trends in your workplace. This can give you leverage in getting union issues on management's agenda.*

**Presenter:** Darryl Alexander, *Occupational Health and Safety Coordinator, American Federation of Teachers*

**Moderator:** To be announced

**12:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

### **LUNCHEON**

**“Taking Your Job Seriously and Yourself Lightly”**

**Speaker:** Jim Snack, *The Humor Project*

**2:15 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.**

### **WORKSHOP SESSION IV: Strategies for Workplace Change.**

*Join your colleagues for discussions on issues that you face in your work environment and explore strategies your local can use to address these issues.*

### **20. CONTRACT LANGUAGE FOR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

*Join us for an informal session with colleagues and NYSUT staff on including health and safety language in your contract, sample language, health and safety issues that need to be addressed and other concerns related to the collective bargaining agreement. Higher education and healthcare workplaces are included.*

**Presenter:** Nancy Bowers, *NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist, Vestal Regional Office*

**Moderator:** Sean Tvelia, *Faculty Association of Suffolk Community College*

### **21. INTRODUCTION TO EXERCISE TO REDUCE STRESS & INCREASE FITNESS**

*Come dressed in your workout clothes! This session is designed to introduce you to a wide range of stretching, exercise, yoga and Pilates activities for flexibility, strength and overall fitness. Developing strategies to incorporate some form of fitness into your daily routine will be discussed as well as tips to stay on track with your short and long term fitness goals.*

**Presenter:** Kathleen Sullivan, *Certified Kripalu Yoga Instructor*

**Moderator:** Nancy Pasquale, *Solvay TA*

## **22. COALITION BUILDING AND DEVELOPING STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS WORKPLACE HAZARDS**

*There is power in numbers. Sometimes, it takes more than NYSUT's numbers alone to drive action. Regardless of the endeavor, rarely are we ever at it alone. You can draw on our many community and union allies to assist in your efforts. Learn how coalitions and building partnerships can help obtain a safer workplace.*

**Presenter:** Carl Korn, *NYSUT Media Relations Specialist*

**Moderator:** Raymond Pitcher, *Herkimer FA*

## **23. EFFECTIVE LOCAL AND JOINT HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEES**

*An important OSHA fact: Safe workplaces have safety and health committees. Learn the ins and outs of an effective occupational safety and health committee and build the union in the process. This workshop will elaborate on what you need to know to have effective union-only and labor-management safety and health committee meetings.*

**Presenter:** Geraldine Stella, *Health and Safety Trainer, NYS Public Employees Federation*

**Moderator:** Sheridan Burleigh, *Saratoga Adirondack BOCES EA*

## **24. POLITICAL ACTION FOR SAFE WORKPLACES**

*Attend this workshop to learn how issues are identified, brought to the organizational agenda and what we need to do to get these issues addressed through legislation.*

**Presenter:** John Green, *NYSUT Legislative Representative*

**Moderator:** Robert Wurman, *Professional Staff Congress*

## **25. MEDIA AND HEALTH AND SAFETY**

*Often used as a last resort, the media can be a powerful tool to effect change in the workplace. Come learn how creative media relations, including internal communications, can help your efforts to create a safer, healthier environment.*

**Presenter:** Vi Paramore, *President, Jefferson County Alabama American Federation of Teachers*

**Moderator:** Margaret Sergent, *Rochester Teachers Association*

## **26. FUNDING STRATEGIES**

*"We don't have the money" is a common response from management when we ask for on-the-job improvements. Attend this workshop and find out how government funding works, how to research funding sources and how to develop proposals to tap them.*



**Presenters:** To be announced  
**Moderator:** To be announced

**4:00 P.M.**

Departure

2846/CWA 1141