

REPORT



Southwestern Regional Office ♦ 1 West Oak Hill Road, Jamestown, NY 14701 ♦ Phone: 716-664-7425 ♦ Fax: 716-487-1727

Year 10, Issue 1

April 2011

We Are One

RSD Report

As many of you know by now, I am a fan of Jon Stewart and The Daily Show. That is doubly true when I watch Stewart's defense of public employees as he skewers the radical governors and legislators who attack public employees and their bargaining rights across the nation.

The March 24 edition lampooned the Governor of Maine for deciding that the large mural decorating the Maine Department of Labor must be removed because it is too one sided . . . toward labor.

When I switch Jon Stewart off, I am reminded that these incredible attacks on public employees are not comical at all, and are underway in about half of the states, including New York. Right here we have state legislators calling pensions "unfunded mandates" and looking for ways to reduce pension benefits for employees who are already members of the retirement systems. Some are also calling for the government to freeze salaries and set mandatory health insurance contributions.

Two of the greatest threats in NY are the attack on the "Triborough" Amendment to the Taylor Law, and the attack on "LIFO," the requirement that layoffs are based on the seniority system. Both of these protections are state laws, and both could be changed by an act of the NYS Legislature.

As leaders we all need to mobilize our members to fight back. NYSUT will continue to keep you informed of the issues we face at any particular moment, and NYSUT will continue to use its influence in Albany to fight off the attacks. However, the strength of NYSUT is in our ability to continually **demonstrate** our strength of numbers, and to respond in our communities, in the local media, and to our legislators. We also need to support VOTE-COPE more than ever.

May 17—It REALLY Does Matter!

School board positions and district budgets will be up for vote on May 17, 2011. The regional office has labels and phone numbers of members who reside in each school district. If your local would like these materials, or would like to reserve a time to use the regional office phone banks to call members, please contact your LRS.

NYSUT New Presidents Conference--July 27-30, 2011

Invitations have gone out to recently elected presidents for the 2011 New Presidents Conference held in the Albany area. If you elect a new president, please contact the regional office as soon as possible with their name to make sure they are offered this free training opportunity.

WE ARE ONE

AFL-CIO



ABOVE: Union Rally on March 23 in Mayville, New York.



ABOVE: Brocton Teachers' Association's Claudia Leone, secretary, "speaking truth to power" and Deb Lloyd-Priest, president, at a February meeting with legislators at the Southwestern NY Regional Office.

Educational Issues Workshop

"Value Added Assessment "

Thursday, May 5, 2011

Clubhouse Chalet at Holiday Valley Resort

4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. \$15/pp (includes dinner)

What is a Value Added Growth Model, how does it work, and what issues does it present to teachers, students, and schools? Teacher members, especially those working with APPR, are urged to attend. Registration materials have been sent to presidents.

Please RSVP to Lisa Perrin by April 27.

WE ARE ONE AFL-CIO

Members Support Union Brothers & Sisters

NYSUT members have activated to protect the rights of their fellow workers in their counties, New York, and across the United States.

In our region there have been several political and informational meetings and rallies to show support for public workers and hard-won collective bargaining rights.

In February, the SWNYRO Political Action Committee arranged meetings in Olean with Assemblyman Joe Giglio and in Jamestown with Assemblyman Andy Goodell and Senator Cathy Young.

Joe Sweeny, NYSUT E.D. Director, presented three informational meetings to NYSUT members in Allegany, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua Counties in March. The Wellsville Education Association, JoAnn Savitsky-Brown, president, hosted the first one at L'Italia Restaurant in Wellsville on March 3. On March 16, the Olean Teachers Association, Dave Lasky, president, hosted the second one at the JCC Olean Campus; and on March 18 the Brocton Teachers Association, Deb Lloyd-Priest, president, and the Fredonia Teachers Association, Darrin Paschke, president, hosted the third one at Chautauqua Suites in Mayville.

BELOW: Members listen to Dave Lasky at the Olean meeting.



Members at the Wellsville EA Informational Rally listen and prepare.

Also in March, NYSUT members joined their union brothers and sisters from the Dunkirk and Jamestown Area Labor Councils in Mayville for a rally prior to a Chautauqua County Legislative Meeting on March 23.

The next rally is being planned for 5 p.m. on April 19 in Olean at Lincoln Park with NYSUT and the Cattaraugus-Allegany Labor Council members. Please join us!

BELOW: Dave Lasky, president, Olean TA, speaks at the 3/16/11 Meeting.



SWNYRO SRP Conference

On May 7, 2011, the Southwestern Regional Office will be presenting its 2011 Annual SRP Conference at Seneca Allegany Hotel & Casino.

The cost is \$12 per person, which includes a continental breakfast, lunch, and the workshop programs.

Please encourage your members to take advantage of this opportunity to enhance their professional abilities and interact with their fellow union members.

Registration deadline is April 27.



SWNYRO

Annual Awards Dinner

Thursday, June 2, 2011

Premier Banquet Center

Start planning to attend now! This is the one occasion each year that we take the time to honor members' contributions to their unions and NYSUT.

March 25 was the deadline for Honoree information, and dinner reservation forms have been sent to presidents with a deadline of May 13.

We hope to see you there!



Calling All Nurses!

Would you like to meet and compare experiences with other professionals in your field? Would you like to learn how to use your role as a leader to work more successfully within your workplace and health care systems? Please join us on May 7 at the Seneca Allegany Event Center for a program developed especially for our nurse members. The cost is \$12 per person, which also includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Registration materials have been mailed to local presidents. The registration deadline is April 27.



Right to Left: Loren Smith, President; Andrea Figueroa, Regional V-C Coordinator; Ken Armstrong, & Matt Harp being presented awards for the Panama Faculty Association members 2010 contributions to VOTE-COPE.

Panama FA Recognized for VOTE-COPE

In February, the Panama Faculty Association was awarded plaques recognizing their members' growth in VOTE-COPE contributions for 2010.

Andrea Figueroa, Regional VOTE-COPE Coordinator, presented the plaque to the Association after a meeting with politicians at the Southwestern NY Regional Office.



SWNYRO Leadership Conference

August 17-19, 2011

Holiday Valley Resort

Start planning now to attend this educational conference. Information will be mailed out in May to local presidents.

Fredonia SSSA Hosts ERS Workshop

The Fredonia Salaried Support Staff Association, Jim Pasierb, president, and the SWNYRO hosted a seminar coordinated by Patty Hober, NYSUT ERS Consultant, and facilitated by Marie Heckman of the NYS Employee Retirement System at the Cassadaga Country Club.

The March 28 workshop was well attended by 35 members from Chautauqua Lake SS, Dunkirk TA, Falconer EA, Fredonia SSA, Frewsburg FA, Frewsburg USE, JCC SA, Professional & Supervisory Alliance and Randolph CSTA.

If your ERS members have questions, they can contact the regional office and ask for Patty Hober.

Teacher Certification Videoconference

Glenn Jeffers, NYSUT Research & Ed Services department, facilitated a videoconference on initial and professional certification for teachers at the Southwestern NY Regional Office on March 10.

Members from Cassadaga Valley FA, Falconer EA, Jamestown TA, Olean TA, Panama FA, and Salamanca TA participated in the videoconference.

The next videoconference is planned for Fall 2011.

Social Security Retirement Benefits

Did you know that your members can get up-to-date information about social security benefits and programs at www.socialsecurity.gov? Some of the things you can do is receive an estimate of your retirement benefits, find useful publications, and even apply online for benefits.

Members Earn National Board Certification!

We are pleased to announce that four more members in our region have earned National Board Certification (NBC) in 2010. Our congratulations go to:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Local</u>	<u>Area</u>
Sheila Cannon	Fredonia TA	Art
Connie Lavelle	Fredonia TA	Art
Brandy Noody	Fredonia TA	Art
Lisa Sabella	Ripley EA	Generalist

National Board Certified teachers are accomplished educators who spend hours of their own time having their teaching measured against high and rigorous standards through an extensive series of performance-based assessments. This program has been recognized as having a positive impact on student achievement, teacher retention, and professional development.

For detailed information on this excellent program, go to the NYSUT website and choose the NBC icon on the right-hand side. Another invaluable resource is the National Board Council of New York State website at <http://nbcny.org> –choose the "Candidates" link at the top.

Members who are interested in this program and would like to talk or get info from a local NBC holder, please call the regional office for contact information.

Joint Election District B and 4 Meeting

E.D. Directors Joe Sweeny and Eileen Healy held a Joint E.D. B and E.D. #4 meeting at the Seneca Allegany Events Center on February 17 which was attended by fifty members. A highlight of the meeting was an update of APPR issues and regulations presented by Maria Neira, NYSUT VP, and Dan Kinley, Director of Policy and Program Development.

Below: Eileen Healy, ED B Director, Joe Sweeny, ED #4 Director, and Maria Neira, NYSUT VP, at the Joint ED Meeting on February 17, 2011.



NYSUT Southwestern New York Regional Office
1 West Oak Hill Road
Jamestown, New York 14701

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Members Retiring?



If you need NYSUT retirement certificates and service pins for members retiring this year, please contact the regional office to have them in plenty of time for you to present them. Don't forget that retirees should stay on your list of members: only their category changes.

NYSUT CALENDER OF EVENTS

(Also posted on our website at nysut.org/southwestern)

April 19, 2011	NYSUT/AFL-CIO Labor Rally	Olean, NY
May 5, 2011	Educational Issues Workshop-Value Added Assessment	Ellicottville, NY
May 7, 2011	SWNYRO SRP Conference	Salamanca, NY
May 7, 2011	SWNYRO Nurses Conference	Salamanca, NY
May 9-10, 2011	Committee of 100	Albany, NY
May 18, 2011	Retiree Council #4 Conference	Salamanca, NY
June 2, 2011	SWNYRO Annual Awards Dinner	Olean, NY
June 27-30, 2011	NYSUT New Local Presidents Conference	Latham, NY
July 18-22, 2011	NYSUT LAP	Saratoga Springs
July 25-29, 2011	NYSUT Shutdown Week	Statewide
August 17-19, 2011	SWNYRO Leadership Conference	Ellicottville, NY

NYSUT--Affiliated with the AFT, NEA, and AFL-CIO