

SRP NewsLink

A NEWSLETTER FOR NYSUT'S SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONALS LOCAL LEADERS

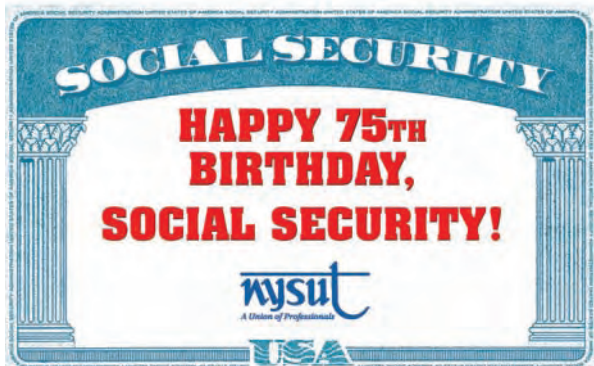
FALL 2010

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Celebrate! Social Security's 75th anniversary

In honor of the landmark Social Security Act signed into law by Franklin Delano Roosevelt on Aug. 14, 1935, NYSUT worked with the New York State Alliance for Retired Americans to participate in a series of celebrations throughout New York state. The New York State Office for the Aging, under the leadership of Mike Burgess, spearheaded the effort along with a broad coalition of organizations, which currently includes AFT, AARP,



Hunter College and the Roosevelt House in New York City. "The 75th anniversary of this landmark act being signed into law is truly a cause for celebration," said NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue.

What Social Security means to workers and retirees!

Today 253,000 New York children receive Social Security survivor benefits: Every year Social Security provides these children with income support.

Today 453,325 New Yorkers receive Social Security disability: Every year Social Security provides these Americans with income support.

Today, 2,045,688 retired New Yorkers receive Social Security checks.

Social Security accounts for nearly 40 percent of an older American's income, on average. Every year Social Security lifts the income of 13 million seniors above the federal poverty line. (Source: Social Security Administration.)

How will you celebrate SRP Recognition Day?

Nov. 16, 2010, is our day! School-Related Professionals Recognition Day is the day to celebrate the hard-working, dedicated SRPs who, day after day, help educate, tend to, feed, transport, and keep our children safe and healthy and organized. "Our schools cannot run without SRPs," remarked NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue, whose office oversees SRP issues for the union. "They are our hidden heroes, and it is important to take the time to recognize the contribution they make in the lives of all our children."



NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue

Recognition Day into law in 2007. Now, the third Tuesday of November is SRP Recognition Day in New York state.

School districts, teachers, administrators and, indeed, SRPs themselves have been clever the past years in their types of celebrations. Everything from food, to gifts of lottery tickets, to taking over SRP duties for the day have been

This celebration day is a direct result of a resolution approved at the 2002 NYSUT Representative Assembly. NYSUT successfully lobbied the governor to sign the bill to create a permanent SRP

reported. A great first step for you is to ask your district to put it on their official calendar.

To help in the celebration, NYSUT will be sending out packets with a celebration guide and "Proud to Be" stickers to locals. Contact NYSUT SRP Coordinator Margaret MacCartney at mmaccart@nysutmail.org for information, and e-mail her with info about and photos of your special day.



Representing more than 600,000 professionals in education and health care
For more, see www.nysut.org.

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IMPORTANT DATES

NYSUT SRP Leadership Conference Oct. 1-3
Desmond, Albany

National School Lunch Week
www.asfsa.org Oct. 11-15

National School Bus Safety Week
www.napt.org Oct. 8-22

NYSUT BOCES Leadership Conference Oct. 22-23
Crowne Plaza, Albany

NYS SRP Recognition Day
www.nysut.org Nov. 16

PLANNING AHEAD

NEA ESP Conference
www.nea.org/esp March 10-13
Washington DC

AFT PSRP Conference
www.aft.org March 24-27
Las Vegas

SRPNewsLink

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A Union of Professionals

Staying healthy in Newburgh



Pictured are Sheila Manning and other members of Newburgh's team from this year's LAP conference.

*By Sheila M. Manning
SRP Chapter Leader, Newburgh TA*

On a sunny Saturday in June, more than 50 members of the Newburgh Teaching Assistants— the SRP chapter of the Newburgh TA — staffed booths for the second annual Newburgh Teaching Assistants' "Starting Healthy and Staying Healthy in Newburgh Fair." The event is aimed toward creating a healthier today and tomorrow for the children and families of the Newburgh school district in pre-K through fourth grade. Joining the teaching assistants to staff the booths were school nurses and teachers.

It was a great success! Throughout the day, children and their families weaved through a series of booths and displays with information about maintaining a healthy mind and body. Children enjoyed the many educational activities and stations, such as making bookmarks, math games, science games, and arts and crafts. An inflatable bounce house let kids experience

how much fun being active and healthy could be.

Community members distributed healthy snacks giveaways, which were donated by local businesses. Information and additional giveaways were provided by city police department and other community groups and businesses.

Goodie bags included NYSUT's 24/7 Let's Go! wellness kits along with branded items of Frisbees and Five a Day rulers.

The idea for the first fair came out of the chapter's participation in NYSUT's Local Action Project (LAP). The LAP Committee — Brenda Johnson, Pat Favata, Lisa Maier, Joni Mongelli, Denice Knox and Sheila M. Manning — thought this would be a way to strengthen the chapter's ties to the community and other unions. Having seen so many children and their families in need of information on many health and educational issues, plans are to keep expanding the fair to eventually include pre-K to grade 12.

PTSI 2011 state bus regulations booklets available

The Pupil Transportation Safety Institute's 2011 NYS State Laws and Regulations for School Bus Drivers and Attendants booklet is available through NYSUT at no charge. For an individual copy or enough for the transportation workers in your local, contact Linda Watkins at 800-342-9810, ext. 6029, or lwatkins@nysutmail.org with your order.



LICOP Breakfast raises money for Make-a-Wish

This spring the Long Island Council of Paraprofessionals (LICOP) held their Annual Recognition Breakfast at the Bellport Country Club in Bellport on Long Island. More than 80 paraprofessionals who work in Suffolk County attended this event, which celebrates this profession.

The morning began with a welcome to all attendees by Gail Reissman, president of LICOP. After breakfast, the entertainment — led by executive board member Linda Bartolomeo — featured a song entitled “Hats Off to Paras and TAs,”—which celebrates the many hats we wear in our profession.

Cathy Rienth, a member of the NYSUT School-Related Professionals Advisory Committee, addressed the audience and led a discussion regarding concerns of the paraprofessionals who were present.

A raffle was held, prizes were awarded and all money raised through this event was donated to the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Suffolk County. This event brought attendees together as paraprofessionals and through the generosity of all present, were able to make a difference in the life of a child, just as they make a difference in the lives of the children they work with.



Pictured from left: Cathy Rienth - SRP Advisory Committee, Gail Reissman - LICOP President, Janice Lloyd - SRP Advisory Committee

BSATA sponsors BBQ as budget vote appetizer

Kate Wanerka, Ballston Spa Association of Teaching Assistants president, reports that the BSATA sponsored their third annual chicken barbeque on May 18 in conjunction with the school budget vote. The barbeque was sold out with more than 400 dinners sold. Partial proceeds from the barbeque went to two scholarships that the BSATA unit awards to graduating seniors each year. According to Wanerka, her members had a great time working at the barbeque, and it is a great way for community members to get to know BSATA.

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Nancy Juliano

SRP Advisory Committee chair



Welcome back to the 2010-11 school year. I hope you all had a chance to get some R&R with friends and family this summer, and feel rejuvenated for a busy school year.

We face many challenges this year — once again doing more with less. Thankfully, the state budget finally passed and we are hopeful that the stimulus monies that will be funneling into our school districts will reinstate those who were laid off.

I encourage you to stay strong and united. Remember, what happens to one of us — happens to all of us. Look after one another. Do your personal best every day and take extra care of yourselves — both on the job and off. Keep in the know and aware of the most up-to-date information regarding upcoming conferences and legislation that impacts our jobs by checking out NYSUT's website at www.nysut.org. Also be sure to check out the many photos on the Flickr part of the website.

Speaking of conferences, I hope you have registered for the SRP Leadership Conference at the Desmond in Albany Oct. 1-3. I look forward to seeing you there. Don't forget to bring your hat!

If you haven't yet participated in “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer,” make this the year you join others in this most important endeavor.

I want to thank all of the SRPs who worked through the summer to thoroughly clean the schools, kept the grounds well maintained and dealt with all of those student records.

In closing, I thank each of you for all that you do every day. We are the glue that holds districts together; the backbone that supports the educational process. They cannot do the job of educating children without us.



Messages from your SRP at-large directors



Sandie Carner-Shafran

Hi folks and welcome back! We as School-Related Professionals are strong and resourceful professionals who always do more with less and are proud to do the jobs that are asked of us. This year, in this most difficult time, we will be asked to do even more as many of our classrooms will have more students and our health care professionals will be given more patients to care for as schools and hospitals try to close budget gaps.

My message to you is to do all you can to find professional training to hone your skills. In the 2011-12 school year, teachers and principals will be scrutinized and test scores and data analyzed for excellence. We will also be held accountable for data recording and many other tasks that require training. Please remember to take charge of your profession so that someone else can't define it for you! NYSUT's ELT workshops are a great resource for training at a reasonable price.

In closing, think out of the box for ways to galvanize your members into a stronger unit — perhaps by starting a book club with your co-workers or having informal discussion groups about current topics. Contact your library about workshops, and check with other school districts to see if you can share the cost of a speaker on a topic that relates to your job. Keep up the great work you do as our students and patients rely on you.



Margie Brumfield

Welcome back to a new school year. As an SRP representative, I encourage all of you to keep the faith — especially during these tough times. We are all concerned by the number of layoffs in our districts. Know that NYSUT is constantly working on how they can make the difference and help save our jobs!

As an at-large director, I have the opportunity to work closely with our NYSUT officers. I can honestly say that they are always on the job working for all members, including advocating for SRP issues.

NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi, working along with Senators Schumer and Gillibrand, advocated very hard for the FMAP (Federal Medicaid) funding and the Education Jobs Bill. This will help save thousands of jobs, including SRP positions, and help ensure that all students get the support that they need to get the best education possible.

NYSUT continues to make it possible for SRPs, as well as other constituencies, to get the professional development, certifications, etc., that we need to deliver the best service possible to our students.



Marching?

Find details on the home page at www.nysut.org

Welcome to NYSUT!

NYSUT is pleased to announce the following new SRP locals:

The 28-member Briarcliff Clerical & Techs unit, the 25-member Lavelle School Aides unit and the 90-member Tri-Valley SRPs. Welcome to these new SRP members!

NYSUT offers training for SRPs through ELT

NYSUT's Education & Learning Trust welcomed 35 veteran SRP instructors back to headquarters at the end of June for its annual professional development training. Ten new SRPs from across the state joined the ranks of ELT instructors after they successfully completed ELT's New SRP Instructor Orientation.

Two new SRP seminars were developed that week and are now available for members: Response to Intervention: Understanding and Application and Peer Partnering for Paraprofessionals.

For more information about these or other programs, contact ELT at 800-528-6208 or www.nysut.org/elt. You can also find us on Facebook at NYSUT ELT.

We invite you to check out the pictures from the training on Flickr at www.flickr.com/photos/nysut/sets/.



The newest ELT SRP instructors.

Enjoy great deals with *TripMark.travel*

Be sure to check out the newest travel discount program endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation, *TripMark.travel*.

This program provides NYSUT members and their families with leisure travel benefits online or from travel agents.

TripMark.travel allows you to book flights, hotels, vacation packages, car rentals and cruises online. With a simple interface and advanced encryption technology, your information is safe and secure.

Offline, toll-free agents can assist you if you prefer speaking to an agent. Agents can be reached between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., ET. At this time, agents cannot book airline flights. You can either book flights online or call the airline directly.

Other services include destination guides, options for road trips and assistance with group travel.

To get started, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on TripMark in the Featured Discounts section on the home page. There, you'll find toll-free numbers for reservations, cruises and group travel, as well as a link to a NYSUT member-specific TripMark website. Or call Member Benefits at 800-626-8101.

TripMark.travel is a NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 25 percent of net revenue 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; 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.



Fair Trade – Solidarity in Action

Today, more than ever, the choices we make as consumers impact the lives of people producing the goods we purchase. When we purchase Fair Trade, we say “yes” to an economic system that honors workers and protects the environment and “no” to a system that exploits workers, enslaves children and devastates the planet.

Learn more about how you can become involved.

Visit www.labor-religion.org and follow the Fair Trade links.

Daughters of Fair Trade cacao farmers in the Dominican Republic attend school rather than work in the fields, thanks to the benefits of Fair Trade.

What You Can Do

Shop – Each Fair Trade purchase you make is a vote for a better world.

Give – Fair Trade is a gift that gives twice!

Educate – Tell family, friends and co-workers about Fair Trade.

Share – Learn about Fair Trade and how your choices can create a more just and sustainable world.

Fundraise – Sell Fair Trade products to raise funds for your school or community group.

NHTSA revamps website

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has revamped its website. The new site, which still resides at www.nhtsa.gov, boasts a more user-friendly interface. The agency continues to offer information on all the major transportation programs and initiatives, including a “Key Issues” section that highlights

topics such as distracted driving, seatbelts, teen driving and fuel economy. School buses are also a featured topic, with its own Web page at www.nhtsa.gov/School-Buses that includes information on the upcoming lap/shoulder seat belt requirements as well as a number of related reports and studies.

