

# SRP NewsLink

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

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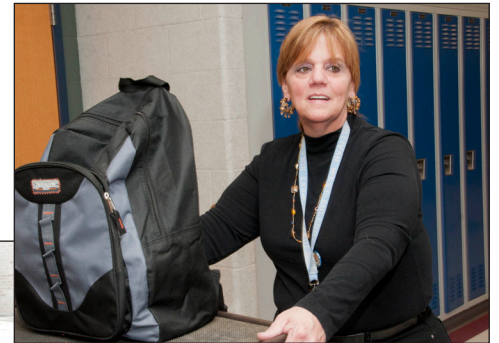
## Hilda Monfredo honored as SRP of the Year at RA

When Hilda Monfredo was asked to be the greeter at Sullivan West High School four years ago, she hesitated. Monfredo loved her work as a teacher aide in a special education classroom setting and thought she would miss interacting with the students. She needn't have worried. "Now I see every student who walks through that door, every day," said Monfredo. "I am the first line of defense at Sullivan West." Monfredo was honored as NYSUT 2013 School-Related Professional of the Year at the 41st Annual Representative Assembly in Washington.

She is dedicated to the backpack pantry program the Western Sullivan United Teachers and School-Related Personnel Backpack Pantry began. "We have many children in our school district who



Her high level of professionalism, caring nature and devotion to the students is shown through her ability to persevere and maintain the program



while preserving anonymity for the recipients of the backpacks.

Monfredo currently serves as executive vice president of the SRP unit of the WSUT and SRP. In her 18 years of service she has accomplished many things: as negotiations chair, she negotiated the past two SRP contracts; she's a NYSUT Education & Learning Trust instructor; she sits on the SRP sick bank committee and is a trustee of the local's benefit trust. Last year, she completed the NYSUT Leadership Institute program.



were going hungry," she said. To date, 191 backpacks have been delivered to 14 needy families in the Sullivan West School District. The backpacks go home with the children every other week.

### INSIDE

#### RA coverage

Page 2

#### A view from the Chair

Page 3

#### Help still needed for superstorm victims

Page 4



Representing more than 600,000 professionals in education and health care  
For more, see [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org).

## IMPORTANT DATES

### **NYSUT New Local Presidents Conference**

June 24-26, Albany, NY

### **NEA Representative Assembly**

July 1-6, Atlanta, GA

### **NYSUT Professional Issues Forum on Health Care**

April 27, Saratoga Springs

### **School Budget Vote**

May 21, Statewide

### **Rally for Public Education**

June 8, Albany, at the Capitol

## SRPs Make a Difference toolkit

Need to bring some visibility to your local? Need to show off the great stuff your members do? Need to get the word out to your community about the important way your members impact the students' learning? Need some good PR? Need a way to show your support for passing your school budget?



Well — NYSUT has a program for you! The SRPs Make a Difference program will fill the bill for all those questions. The user-friendly toolkit is found at [www.nysut.org](http://www.nysut.org) > leader access > SRP leader. Once there, you will find a letter from Kathleen Donahue explaining the program, see several examples of the PR piece that

other locals have completed and step-by-step instructions on how to put together your own customized piece.

Once you complete all the steps, Margaret MacCartney, SRP coordinator, and her team will drop your data in the templates, add graphics, edit, finalize the project and explain the ways it can be used. It is a great

way to get your union local out there and recognized.

Leaders, take a moment, check it out and put an SRPs Make a Difference team together. For questions and help, contact Margaret MacCartney at NYSUT headquarters at [mmaccart@nysutmail.org](mailto:mmaccart@nysutmail.org) or 800-342-9810, ext 6318.

## NYSUT 2013 RA coverage: SRPs Make a Difference



*NYSUT V.P.  
Kathleen Donahue*

In her speech to RA delegates, NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue lauded the efforts of School-Related Professionals as she asked, “what would we do without them?” Donahue

spoke of the daily impact SRPs have on the lives of the students in their care.

“SRPs make a difference! And, we are making sure the public knows it,”

said Donahue, about the roll out of NYSUT’s SRPs Make a Difference campaign.

Donahue encouraged every region to participate in the campaign. She stressed the importance of letting communities know SRPs are an important component in the high quality educational experience that public schools provide.

Read more about the SRPs Make a Difference campaign in the article above.

Delegates adopted a number of SRP driven resolutions. One directs NYSUT to push the State Education Department to adopt regulations that put SRPs on districts’ professional

development committees, another encourages NYSUT’s labor relations specialists to recommend local leaders include professional development language in contracts that cover SRPs, and the third resolution adopted advocates to making assault on any teacher or SRP a class D felony.

NYSUT delegates honored Hilda Monfredo, the NYSUT 2013 SRP of the year at the opening session.

The SRP exhibit booth staff distributed information for and about SRPs as well as information about the Employees’ state Retirement System. Many SRP leaders visited this booth.

## SRPNewsLink

*SRP NewsLink* is a newsletter published periodically for New York State United Teachers School-Related Professionals leaders. NYSUT locals and staff have permission to reprint all *NewsLink* content.

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# Share My Lesson:

## School support staff now exchanging tips, strategies on the AFT's free website

Keeping a school running smoothly and students learning is a complex task, as anyone who works with students knows. Paraprofessionals and school-related professionals

have a new way to share what works at work: Share My Lesson, a website for swapping tips, tools and techniques.

Even if you're not a classroom teacher looking for lesson plans, Share My Lesson, at [www.sharemylesson.com](http://www.sharemylesson.com), is still for you. Take a look at these resources to get you started; you'll be sure to find one that meets your needs:



- Stop the bullying on the bus. Bullying affects students everywhere, inside and outside the classroom. Visit our collection of resources designed specifically for bus drivers within the Share My Lesson Anti-Bullying Collection at <http://go.aft.org/SMLbullying>. The first training module is on how to intervene in bullying on the bus, at <http://go.aft.org/SMLstopbusbullies1>. The second focuses on creating a safe and respectful climate on the bus. <http://go.aft.org/SMLstopbusbullies2>. The collection also features two general tutorials about addressing bullying in the classroom.
- Don't get hurt at work. It's important to stay safe and healthy on the job. Check out a range of helpful tips on how to make sure that work doesn't hurt at <http://go.aft.org/SMLergonomics>.
- Help keep students' brains sharp. Young minds need wholesome meals to do their best in school. Do you have any recipes, nutrition education or other strategies for making our students healthier? Join the conversation with school nutrition workers by starting a string at <http://go.aft.org/SML> in the Share My Lesson forum.

However you do it, share by posting on the forums or uploading a resource specifically for paraprofessionals and school-related professionals at <http://go.aft.org/SMLforPSRPs>.

(Article shared from the AFT PSRP Reporter)

## SAVE THE DATES for the SRP LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE!

Don't miss this year's professional development and networking opportunity. Join your SRP colleagues from around the state at the **35th Annual NYSUT SRP Leadership Conference, Sept. 27-29** at the Hilton Hotel in Saratoga Springs. Conference information will be available in May on the SRP Leader Access for registration by **Aug. 27**.

## A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Karen Lee Arthmann  
SRP Advisory Committee chair



The NYSUT Representative Assembly was held in Washington, D.C. What an exciting event. This is a time for NYSUT members, through their elected delegates, to stand up for what we believe in, and for what we need to help ourselves, our families and communities through our work.

It was good to see so many of you there. This is where we pass resolutions that may affect all of us: It is always imperative we have a great turnout and I am happy to say that was the case. It was wonderful to see our SRP of the Year, Hilda Monfredo, and hear her inspiring words. As always, Kathleen Donahue was our strongest advocate, recognizing the work we do and the value we add to our educational system.

NYSUT has filed a lawsuit against the Tax Cap Law in an effort to protect us and our jobs. A few years ago NYSUT and many of our members, including myself, were involved in a lawsuit seeking to keep our county executive from using tax money that was designated for schools to pay the county Medicaid bill. We were successful and the Fair Tax Act was shut down. The money that was taken was ultimately restored to its rightful allocation. Together we can do great things.

I hope you are taking advantage of all the opportunities that your district and NYSUT have to offer, not only for professional development, but memberships on district committees and attendance at your school board meetings and regional union meetings. Talk to your LRS about the SRPs Make a Difference branding program NYSUT has initiated to get our local names and value out there, and take advantage of it. It's an amazing program and it's easy to take part. See the article in this newsletter on page 2 and check it out.

Educate yourselves on the issues and take a stand with your fellow unionists. So many people have fought so hard before us. We have so much because of them. Now, it's our turn.

In Peace and Solidarity,  
Karen

# Great resources and tools for all support staffers

If you haven't taken advantage of the many offerings for support staff on [www.nea.org/esp](http://www.nea.org/esp), now is the time!

Clicking on the Resources and Tools tab on the left side will bring you a wealth of interesting stuff. There are grants, web resources, legislative

actions, and several NEA ESP publications ready for download. Titles like "Bus Drivers and Bullying Prevention," "Exposure to Blood on the Job: What School Employees Need to Know" and "The Paraeducator Handbook" to name a few.

## Education Support Professionals



Take advantage of your dues and dollars at work!

## NYSUT Welcomes New SRP Members

It was a bumpy road to get the newly organized Greenburgh Teacher Aides Association certified, but the very determined group did not give up. Ultimately, more than 50 percent of the total potential membership signed on and the district agreed to recognize them.

Acting president Heather Daniel said: "One of the obstacles to getting more signed up was the culture at the high school where the aides were scared to sign cards. Fortunately at the elementary school there was no intimidation." Members all receive \$13 per hour, no benefits and no paid days off.



*Bargaining team members Gabe Robles, Heather Daniel, Tameika Jackson, Jessica Johnson, and Tiffany Keating preparing for negotiations. Congratulations to a very enthusiastic and hardworking team.*

They received a good response from their survey and are well on their way to putting proposals together. Also, Graham is planning to open a second school in the Bronx so the group should be growing in the future.

Welcome also to the **Clyde-Savannah Transportation Employee Organization** and the **Spencerport Food Service Association**, both in the Rochester region. And to the Southern Tier's New Roots Charter School whose wall-to-wall unit just received voluntary recognition. So glad to have you in the NYSUT family!

## School Nutrition Employees Week – May 6-10 [www.asfsa.org](http://www.asfsa.org)

Between preparing healthy meals for America's students, adhering to strict nutrition standards, navigating student food allergies and offering service with a smile, school nutrition professionals are true superheroes! School Nutrition Employees Week is the perfect opportunity to recognize the hardworking professionals in school cafeterias.



## National School Nurses Day – May 8 [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org)

National School Nurses Day is a time to celebrate the nursing profession and the specialty of school nursing. In the United States more than 76,000 school nurses are stepping up to meet the new challenges facing today's students and improving the health and academic success of all students.



## Help still needed for Superstorm Sandy victims

NYSUT has launched "Throw Out the Lifeline," a union-wide campaign to raise funds for the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, which benefits victims of Superstorm Sandy and other natural disasters. Even now, many months later, thousands of NYSUT members continue to struggle without power, water, homes and comforts in the wake of Sandy.

To all the many locals who have already given generously, thank you. However, since Sandy was no ordinary storm, member need is ongoing. Please consider doing more — and, if you haven't yet donated, now is the time to get involved.

### How you can help

The NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund depends on voluntary donations. Visit the [www.NYSUT.org](http://www.NYSUT.org) and click "Throw out the

Lifeline" for more information and to make online donations using PayPal via the "Make a Donation" button. NYSUT assumes 100 percent of the administrative costs associated with the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund.

You can also donate by making your check payable to "NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund" to NYSUT Headquarters, Attn: Jeff Lockwood, Accounting Department, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, N.Y. 12110. The NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund (EIN: 11-3761261) is an IRS registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.



# Helping to keep cash in your wallet

As New Yorkers and all Americans continue to look for ways to save money, now is a great time to check out the endorsed programs and services offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

One of the easiest ways to learn about what we have to offer is by visiting the Member Benefits website. Have you taken the time to check out our site lately? If not, we encourage you to do so!

We are continually working to expand our offerings and provide more of the endorsed discount and travel programs that our members love. Our endorsed discount and travel programs offer a great opportunity to save some money while enjoying a little well-deserved fun this spring and summer.

We have a host of programs available to you, including:

- Car and Truck Rental Discounts
- Wyndham Hotels and Endless Vacation Rentals
- TripMark.travel
- Buyer's Edge, Inc.
- Working Advantage
- Bose
- EPIC Hearing Service Plan
- OfficeMax Customer Perks
- Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Service
- Heat USA and Propane USA

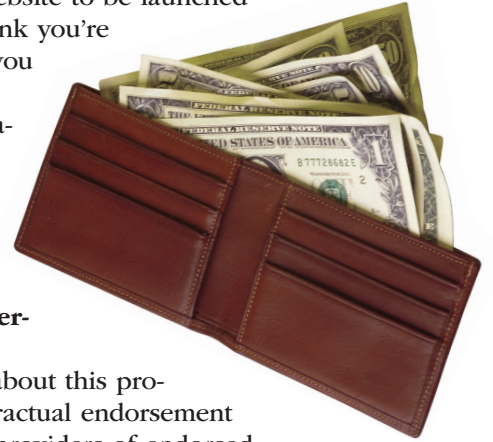
- Powell's Books
- Theme park tickets

Make sure to check out the Member Benefits website for a complete listing of endorsed programs and services available to you. We are also developing a new Member Benefits website to be launched this summer. We think you're going to like what you see!

For more information about our endorsed programs and services, contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 or visit [member-benefits.nysut.org](http://member-benefits.nysut.org).

For information about this program or 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.



## School bus webcast on STN

School Transportation News latest free webinar, **Learning Life Skills on the School Bus** is available at [www.stnonline.com/webcasts](http://www.stnonline.com/webcasts). This 75-minute video focuses on travel training for students with special needs and how student transporters can use the school bus as a learning tool for helping these students gain independence later



via public transit. It features a student transportation consultant and president of Safety Rules in Syracuse, N.Y.

**Learning Life Skills on the School Bus** is available for 24/7 viewing. You can also download the PowerPoint presentation in the special needs resources section at [www.stnonline.com/resources/special-needs](http://www.stnonline.com/resources/special-needs).



### HEALTH & SAFETY SEMINARS FOR SCHOOL-RELATED PROFESSIONALS

ARE AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO DISTRICTS!\*

- Addressing Aggressive Student Behavior in Schools (New)
- Dealing with Difficult Students in the School Environment: Violence Prevention
- Disability Awareness
- Supporting Students with Autism

*\*A limited number of free Health & Safety seminars are available. This was made possible through funding by the NYS Department of Labor.*

*A commitment of 3 full hours is necessary for grant funded fee. The maximum number of participants for a seminar is 35.*

Professional development designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning and advance your career  
Visit: <http://www.nysut.org/elt> \* Call: 800-528-6208  
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