

SRP NewsLink

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

FALL 2012

www.nysut.org

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Prepare now to celebrate SRP Day

In our effort to keep "green," NYSUT will not automatically send out SRP Recognition Day celebration packets this year. However, we will be happy to send out packets upon request. Packets include: a celebration guide, poster and "SRPs Make a Difference" buttons.

Local leaders who would like to order a packet for their locals may order online: www.nysut.org/ereg/srprd12

Requests must include:

- your name and union position,
- the name of your local,
- the number of SRP buttons needed, and
- the address to send packet.

For questions, contact: NYSUT SRP Coordinator Margaret MacCartney, at mmaccart@nysutmail.org.

Order by Nov. 1 to guarantee delivery by Nov. 20.

SRP RECOGNITION DAY

School-Related Professionals work side-by-side as partners in the education of our children

- bus drivers safely transport to and from school
- secretaries keep records
- teaching assistants help educate
- teacher aides assist with care
- nurses keep students healthy
- cafeteria staff feed students
- custodians keep the school clean
- maintenance staff keeps it all running
- security keeps everyone safe



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A Union of Professionals

NYSUT is a statewide union with more than 600,000 members, representing pre-K-12 teachers; school-related professionals; higher education faculty; other professionals in education and health care; and retirees.

For more information and resources, visit www.nysut.org.

Order SRP Recognition Day materials online:
www.nysut.org/ereg/srprd12

KTSEA leaders visit NYSUT headquarters

Kenmore-Tonawanda School Employees Association executive board members Wendy Felt and Jim Hulbert spent a day at NYSUT headquarters to meet staff and learn about different programs to enrich their local. Wendy and Jim worked with web staff to create the KTSEA website.



Don't forget to vote on Nov. 6!

Because elected officials have a direct effect on your job, your rights and on the well-being of your family and community, it is critical that you get involved in the 2012 elections. This year, you will vote to elect the president of the United States as well as representatives to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, and the state Assembly and Senate. Refer to NYSUT's endorsements in the 2012 Election Guide that was mailed to all members. Make your vote count!



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

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IMPORTANT DATES

NEA ESP Conference

March 8-10
Louisville, KY
www.nea.org/esp

AFT PSRP Conference

March 22-24
Minneapolis, MN
www.aft.org/psrp

NYSUT Local and Retiree Council Presidents Conference

April 10 -11
Washington, DC

NYSUT Representative Assembly

April 11-13
Washington, DC

SRP NewsLink

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School Lunch Week Oct. 15-19

More than 29 million children eat lunch at public schools every day. Research shows that good nutrition enables students to meet their educational and physical potential. National School Lunch Week was created in 1962 by President John F. Kennedy, 16 years after President Harry Truman signed the National School Lunch Act into law.

"The well-nourished school child is a better student," Truman said.

Our school cafeterias, food preparation centers and the caring employees who work in them all play a critical role in the educational process by providing nutritious meals for children. Cooks, servers, clerks and delivery drivers all work hard to cut costs and maintain efficient, safe and healthy food service programs.

Many times the meals students receive at school are the best or only meals they will get each day. Our schools serve more meals each day than all the restaurants in the state. NYSUT is proud to represent over 3,000 food service workers statewide. For more information about National School Lunch Week, go to www.asfsa.org.



National School Bus Safety Week Oct. 22-26

From winding country roads to busy city streets, school bus drivers carry the most precious cargo: our children. School bus drivers, mechanics and other school transportation professionals are the safest and most qualified in the state. They also care about the kids and the community. Bus drivers know that parents want the peace of mind that comes from trusting the person behind

the wheel of the big yellow bus. NYSUT is proud to represent approximately 5,000 school bus drivers, mechanics and attendants in New York. These dedicated employees ensure that school buses remain the safest form of transportation in America. According to the National Safety Council, school buses are 172 times safer than the family car.

School bus drivers have more training than any other drivers in the state, and are required to pass an extensive background check before they receive a license.

Studies have proven that the most dangerous part of the school bus ride for children is when they get on and off the bus. Remember to pay close attention to school buses when you see them driving on the street and teach children how to be safe when boarding and exiting the bus.

Getting kids to and from school safely and on schedule makes these transportation professionals an integral part of our schools and our communities. Schools around the country will recognize 2012 School Bus Safety Week, celebrating the theme: "I see the driver — the driver sees me." See www.napt.org for details about this year's theme and poster contest.



ESPs want to make an impact

New NEA research shows that ESPs overwhelmingly choose to work in education because they want to make a positive impact on students. The in-depth research project analyzing ESP values and beliefs gives meaningful insights into what ESPs value in their union. This research will help NEA further support members' careers and work.

Some key findings from the ESP Research Project:

- ESPs believe many issues are important to a student's ability to learn – teacher quality and parental involvement top the list.
- Overall, ESPs express strong job satisfaction
- ESPs are most satisfied with the safety of their work environment and the impact they have on student growth and success – two aspects of their job that they rank as very important to their work.
- ESPs are least satisfied with their salary and benefits, their opportunities to advance and the lack of time spent addressing the needs of workers in their position.

All the project's findings will guide NEA's work with ESPs over the next two-year budget. Targeted issues include fighting privatization, having access to relevant training and professional development, being included in the decision-making process, advancement opportunities, job security, salary and benefits, and being valued as a team member in your schools and districts.

Congratulations on the first contract for Just Kids Lindenhurst

When the 80 teaching assistants at Just Kids Lindenhurst approached NYSUT to form a union, they had a \$10 salary cap for everyone, constantly changing benefits, subjective discipline and no due process. All that changed two years ago, when, despite an aggressive anti-union campaign by the Just Kids administration, they voted two to one to form a union.

On Aug. 22 union members unanimously ratified their first contract! Aside from removing the salary cap, gains included additional salary increases based on certification and addi-

tional funding (verifiable by the union), a grievance process that ends in binding arbitration, an additional holiday, changes in pay during the probationary period and union security. They also won layoff protections, including seniority and recall rights – especially important because even though they are a private school, they rely heavily on public funding and enrollment both of which have resulted in layoffs in the past.

Congratulations to the local's president Kelly Harris, the negotiations team and all the members.

A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Karen Lee Arthmann
SRP Advisory Committee chair



It's back to school, and whether we had the summer "off" or worked most of it, we are going to be working harder than ever now. We are in for the fight of our lives, in keeping our jobs, keeping the all-important Triborough Act in place and maintaining our collective bargaining rights. We all have to be vigilant in making sure we, and everyone we can convince to do so, vote for those who will defend us in our fight. We, the middle class, cannot let down our guard for even an instant. There are those in public office, and those who wish to seek a higher public office, who would like nothing better than to fill their own pockets at our expense and the expense of our livelihoods and earned pension benefits.

I urge you to become involved in local, state and national politics. Be informed and make decisions that will be for the good of you and your families, as well as generations to come. Those who came before us in the labor movement have fought so hard, even giving their lives, so that our futures could be brighter. We can't afford to take those hard-won gains for granted.

Our sisters and brothers in Wisconsin know too well what can happen when greedy politicians get the upper hand. We will continue to fight with them to gain back the collective bargaining rights and contracts they lost. But make no mistake, it will be a long, uphill battle. Other states have been and will continue to be impacted by those who want to make a mark for themselves as union busters and enemies of public employees. We must not allow New York to suffer the same fate.

We have lost thousands of union members over the years and it's time to get them back and continue to grow the ranks of labor unions, both in the public and private sectors. Don't be the one who sits by and either watches what happens or wonders what just happened. Be that person who steps up and defends what we have all worked so hard for, and for what we continue to work. Be the one who makes things happen. The signature on my personal email is by Edward Everett Hale and says, ***"I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do."*** **Be that one.**

I am looking forward to seeing you at the SRP Conference in October and leaders, be sure to check out the information on www.nysut.org to order your celebration packet for the Nov. 20 SRP Recognition Day.

In solidarity,
Karen Lee Arthmann

New workshop offerings for SRPs from the NYSUT Education & Learning Trust

The Art and Craft of Motivation

This seminar will highlight research on motivation of students. We will analyze how to connect with learners so their individual strengths are realized and encouraged. Learning how to guide our students through challenges they face by supporting and opening up new horizons for them to explore, will lead to more motivation for them to learn. We will strive to have students find relevance in what they are learning and become more independent, self-directed and collaborative as they grow academically and emotionally.

SRP's impact on the learning environment

This seminar will explore the connections and relationships between administrators, educators, students and paraeducators. The seminar will focus

on the crucial skills needed to create a safe, welcoming learning environment and will highlight the impact paraeducators have in establishing the learning environment from the time students board the school bus in the morning until the time they are returned home at the end of the day.

Comprehension of ELLs

Participants will be able to understand the NYS regulations for identifying



SRP trainers at summer training learning the new workshops to be ready to bring them into your districts. See www.nysut.org/elt for more information.

and providing services to English language learners (ELLs), examine cultural factors that affect instruction for ELLs, and explore strategies for making academic content accessible to ELLs.

Member Benefits ... from A to Z

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we are getting closer and closer to an important milestone as it relates to NYSUT Member Benefits – our 30th anniversary of offering a variety of quality endorsed programs and services to NYSUT members.

Member Benefits offers more than 50 endorsed insurance, financial, legal and discount programs designed to provide members with a quality product for themselves and their families.

The following is just a sample of our endorsed programs and services:

Insurance Programs: Term Life & Level Term Life; WrapPlanSM II Flexible Premium Adjustable Life Insurance; Personal Property/Liability (auto, home, renters, boat, umbrella, etc.)

Financial & Legal Services: Financial Counseling Program; ClearPoint Credit Counseling Solutions; Legal Service Plan

Discount Programs: Car & Truck Rentals; Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals; TripMark.travel; Buyer's Edge, Inc.; Working Advantage; Motivano SmartSavings Online Discount Marketplace; Philips Lifeline Medical Alert Service; EPIC Hearing Service Plan

Visit our website at memberbenefits.nysut.org for a complete listing of the endorsed programs and services available to you. Feel free to call us with any questions as well at 800-626-8101.

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.

Welcome to new SRP locals

We are pleased to announce that the independent association of Sachem School Nurses voted to affiliate with NYSUT.