

Dear NYSUT Sisters and Brothers

Last year, many of you nominated your Local or Chapter to be a FAIR TRADE LOCAL. This year we plan to expand that initiative to recognize the inspiring work for **Social Justice** that is being done by our members, Locals, and Chapters. As I have traveled the State, I have been privileged to see the great work you do with your students, members and constituents and I am eager to share your efforts and your stories with all of our members.

Social Justice is a key component of our work as leaders in our union. Taking up these issues strengthens our ability to fight for good contracts, fair budgets and better conditions for our students and our members. These efforts must go forward hand-in-hand; NYSUT honors all of your work as local leaders.

At this year's Representative Assembly, we are going to RECOGNIZE our members' work for social justice, human rights, and solidarity. In a way similar to our recognition of Locals and Chapters active in Legislative work (VOTE COPE Locals) and Community Service, we will "scroll" the names of Locals or Chapters whose members are engaged in the struggle for justice. In addition, Delegates from those Locals and Chapters will receive a special ribbon for their name badges, designating them as Social Justice Local members. And finally, a Citation of Honor and Thanks will be sent from the NYSUT officers to each Social Justice Local or Chapter.

Included here is a list of various criteria we have designated to determine which Locals/Chapters are eligible to be recognized as Social Justice Locals. These particular activities have been chosen because each one reflects a resolution adopted at a Representative Assembly since 2008. In addition, there is room for you to add actions and advocacy that you have undertaken that you believe fits under the Social Justice rubric.

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to Sharon Ryan via fax at 518-213-6413 or email at sryan@nysutmail.org. We must receive your form by MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011. You must check or list at least FIVE actions to qualify your Local or Chapter for the Social Justice Local designation. Please call me or Maureen Casey at 518-213-6000 ext. 6247 (maureenc@labor-religion.org) if you have any questions.

I look forward to celebrating your work for Social Justice in April!

In solidarity,

Lee Cutler
NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer

2010/2011 SOCIAL JUSTICE LOCALS

Please PRINT

LOCAL/CHAPTER NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON NAME: _____

CONTACT PERSON TITLE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

Check any activities that your Local/Chapter or any of your members have done in the last year. You must check off or list at least FIVE activities to qualify.

Please note: Very large locals like UFT or UUP must apply for recognition for INDIVIDUAL chapters.

Fax completed forms to Sharon Ryan: 518-213-6413

Mail to Sharon Ryan at NYSUT HQ, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110

LABOR SOLIDARITY

- Supported striking workers
- Supported Farmworker Fair Labor Practice Act
- Did education/advocacy for Justice for Farmworkers campaign
- Supported Sweatfree NY Campaign
- Did a Labor Education program in a class, your community, or Local/Chapter
- Participated in solidarity action for workers in another State or country
- Have celebrated Workers' Memorial Day on or around April 28
- Other: _____

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Have taken part in any Green Schools activities or initiatives with curriculum, practices, or organizational structure
- Supported alternative energy in the workplace
- Have worked to reduce the use of fossil fuels (car-pooling, heat or a/c reduction, light turn-off program, etc)
- Supported sustainable energy policy
- Implemented, supported or participated in recycling in the workplace
- Have educated about global warming and alternative energy sources
- Other: _____

GLBT SOLIDARITY

Have implemented anti-bullying actions, education, or programs. Please specify: _____

Have advocated for Domestic Partner Health Coverage legislation

Have worked for the repeal of the Defense of Marriage Act

Other: _____

FAIR TRADE

Serve Fair Trade products at union events or in union offices

Have used Fair Trade lessons or curriculum in classes or with union members

Have attended a Fair Trade training or workshop

Have sponsored a Fair Trade sale or fundraiser

Have included a link to the Fair Trade Project or Fair Trade Facebook on the Local/Chapter web site

Have included information about Fair Trade in Local/Chapter publications

Have used Fair Trade products as gifts for special occasions (i.e. SRP Day)

Other: _____

CHILD LABOR

Participated in NYSUT's Child Labor Challenge (Reverse Trick or Treat, The Dark Side of Chocolate, "Raise the Bar, Hershey" Campaign)

Watched or participated in the December 10, 2010 "Students Can Speak Truth to Power" web event

Have taught lessons or shown films about child labor

Have included information about child labor in union or school publications, web sites or other means of communication

Other: _____

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Have opposed privatization of Social Security

Have opposed the privatization of Medicare or cuts to Medicare insurance

Have supported Health Care for all and reform of health insurance

Have participated in a Living Wage campaign

Have supported Universal Unemployment Insurance or an increase in its rate in New York

Have supported inflation protected COLA

Have acted to support the TRADE Act for Comprehensive Trade Reform

Other: _____

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

- Have supported the struggle of the people of Burma
- Have celebrated May 1 as International Workers' Day
- Have acted to support The DREAM Act and/or Immigration Reform
- Have educated in our Local/Chapter about the Rights of Undocumented Children to Public Education
- Other: _____

SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

- Have implemented lessons from the Speak Truth to Power Human Rights curriculum
- Participated in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and/or took the Pledge to Eliminate Violence Against Women
- Have educated members and students about Womens' Rights
- Have educated members and students about the Rights of Elders and have advocated against Elder Abuse
- Have educated students and members about Genocide, both historic and contemporary
- Have encouraged students and members to become Human Rights Defenders through education about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Have observed December 10 as International Human Rights Day
- Other: _____

OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT (Please be as specific as possible)

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