

SRP NewsLink

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

SRP Ambassadors kick off training at NYSUT HQ

By Cheryl Rockhill, Brushton-Moira Support Staff Association president

I recently participated in the SRP Ambassadors training at NYSUT headquarters.

This program is to help keep NYSUT SRP members informed of things essential to us, such as new ways to access the Employees Retirement System information, and the upcoming 2020 Census. We will be reaching out within our own regions. Our goal is to keep one-to-one conversations going and for our members to always have someone they know they can go to for help and/or questions.

Our SRPs need to know that NYSUT and their union brothers and sisters hear their needs and we are trying to address each one.

Our training consisted of many things. We learned or relearned about the structure of one-to-one conversations, active listening, presentations were given on the 2020 census, all the great things available through NYSUT Member Benefits, the New York State & Local Retirement System (NYSLRS, for ERS members), VOTE-COPE (the union's voluntary political action fund), the new member initiative Next Generation NYSUT. It was a full program.

NYSUT President Andy Pallotta spoke to us about our role as ambassadors, Executive Vice President Jolene DiBranco spoke of the professional development available through NYSUT's Education & Learning Trust, and about the Women's Committee; Second Vice President Paul Pecorale, whose office oversees SRP issues for NYSUT, was in attendance to speak to us. And Secretary-Treasurer Philippe Abraham came and spoke of community outreach and social justice and how important these things are as unionists.

Our focus is going to be letting SRPs know NYSUT is hearing them. We also need to share the importance of being counted in the 2020 census and



NYSUT President Andy Pallotta addresses SRP Ambassadors at a recent training.

how it effects our state, counties and communities. Not getting an accurate count of all the residents in our state can cost us billions of dollars in federal aid.

There are so many schools and communities that could benefit by us getting our fair share of funding.

The most shocking thing I learned in the training was about the rampant and extreme poverty in New York. Yes, I know we are a poor area and that folks struggle to make a living in my area. I was very active in NYSUT's 2016 Fight for \$15 campaign, but the statistics are still alarming. The good news is there

are a couple programs that community outreach offers that I did not know about. Now I can share that information. We will also be a resource to members about the state's Employee's Retirement System, NYSUT Member Benefits offerings and whatever the members needs to be heard on.

The one-to-one conversations we have with members are important because SRPs need to know we have someone in our corner. It's been said we are the unsung heroes of a school district, so knowing there are people out there listening and trying to help makes a big difference. I think the one-to-one conversations bring hope, knowledge and an open communication to SRPs

that was missing in the past. NYSUT is a Union of Professionals not a Union of Teachers so we need to reach out to all who are represented and one-to-one conversations are getting it done!

Find out who your ambassadors are in the story on page 2.

Cheryl Rockhill is a 2020 NYSUT School-Related Professionals Member of the Year, and sits on the union's statewide SRP Advisory Committee. She is a Representative Assembly delegate, a Committee of 100 member, a new member organizer, and a 2016 NYSUT Leadership Institute graduate.



NYSUT 2nd VP Paul Pecorale

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IMPORTANT DATES:**NEA ESP Conference**

March 20–22, New Orleans, Louisiana
www.nea.org/esp

NYSUT Professional Issues Forum on Health Care

April 4
www.nysut.org/healthcare

Administrative Professionals Day

April 22
www.iaap-hq.org

National School Lunch Hero Day

May 1

NYSUT Local & Retiree Council Presidents Conference

April 30–May 1, Albany

NYSUT RA

May 1–2, Albany
www.nysut.org/ra

SRP Lobby Day

May 5, Albany
www.nysut.org/srp

National School Nurse Day

May 6

National Nurses Week

May 6–12

SRP Ambassadors are a regional resource

NYSUT's SRP Ambassadors are a regional resource for you. (See cover page story for details.) Here are your ambassadors and their regions:

John Collins

St. Lawrence Lewis BOCES FISP
 North Country/Potsdam Regional Office

Bruce Fullerton

Hartford Central School
 Capital District Regional Office

Kathy Fullerton

Hartford Central School
 Capital District Regional Office

Susan Gifford

West Genesee Paraprofessionals
 Central NY-Syracuse Regional Office

Joyce Hanson

Ossining Support Staff
 Tarrytown Regional Office

Christopher Horstman

Ithaca City School District EA
 Southern Tier/Vestal Regional Office

Claudia Leone

Brocton Teachers Association
 Western New York Regional Office

Michael Liegeot

Guilderland Support Staff Association
 Capital District Regional Office

Karen McLean

Herricks Teachers Association
 Nassau Regional Office

Diane Morrison

Uniondale Paraprofessionals Assoc.
 Nassau Regional Office

Robert Mossop

Guilderland Support Staff Association
 Capital District Regional Office

Darci Ordway

Chatham Central School Transportation
 Mid-Hudson Regional Office

Robert Reynolds

Chautauqua Lake Assoc. Support Staff
 Western NY/Jamestown Regional Office

Elizabeth Rios-Bakari

Rochester Assoc. of Paraprofessionals
 Rochester Regional Office

Cheryl Rockhill

Brushton-Moira Support Staff Assoc.
 North Country/Potsdam Regional Office

Sharin Wilson

Wyandanch Admin. Support Association
 Suffolk Regional Office

Virginline Woodall

Syracuse Teachers Association
 Central NY-Syracuse Regional Office

Make a difference on SRP Lobby Day, May 5

Join SRPs from around the state and talk to legislators at the Capitol in Albany on May 5, 2020.

Make a difference by ensuring legislators hear the SRP voice on important issues.

At the 2019 SRP Lobby Day more than 80 SRPs took the Capitol by storm and spoke to legislators about health and safety, civil service law, and the stop arm camera law, to name a few. They effected positive change for SRPs, students and the communities in which they live.

Save May 5, 2020, on your calendars and visit www.nysut.org/srp for the issues at hand, and for information about how you can register to participate in SRP Lobby Day.



PHOTO: ANDREW WATSON

New!**New fact sheet for Commercial Drivers License holders available**

The new fact sheet about the online "Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse for Commercial Drivers License Holders" is available for download at www.nysut.org/factsheets

Your union produces a variety of fact sheets for SRP issues, including Health and Safety concerns.

Visit www.nysut.org/factsheets

2019 SRP Recognition Day contest winners announced

The 2019 School-Related Professionals Recognition Day competition netted photos and narratives of creative and heartwarming ways to celebrate SRPs and union solidarity!

Two first place winners will receive a 2-for-1 entry to the Oct. 23-25, 2020, SRP Leadership Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. Congratulations to:

SUNY Broome Community College Educational Support Personnel Association, led by Mary Gilbert.

The local held a contest to create a logo for their union and then used the logo on union t-shirts, which they gave out at their inaugural SRP Recognition Day event. This party featured pizza, raffles and union members decked on in new t-shirts.

“We had 60 members come ... pretty impressive as we have only 135 and have approximately 25 that work 2nd or 3rd shifts,” wrote Gilbert.

First place also goes to: **Greenburgh Federation #11**, led by Jennifer Cole.

Greenburgh Eleven is a wall-to-wall local, in Westchester County. The members work at a Special Act school, and half are SRPs.

Faculty and staff worked with students who assisted in making and hanging celebratory posters, and word art. The sunshine committee supplied a beautiful cake, the staff and administrators wore their NYSUT SRP stickers, and the union’s labor relations specialist stopped by with well wishes.

“In such a challenging environment, it was a day to show unity and union pride throughout the school,” said Cole.

Honorable mention goes to: **Schenectady Federation of Teachers**, led by Juliet Benaquisto for celebrating SFT paraprofessionals unit, led by Pat Zenko, for creating a social media campaign #SFTParasRock that gained traction, and netted 60 teacher posts, with 2,000 likes.

The social media campaign coincided with the tail end of contract negotiations for the unit, which settled successfully.

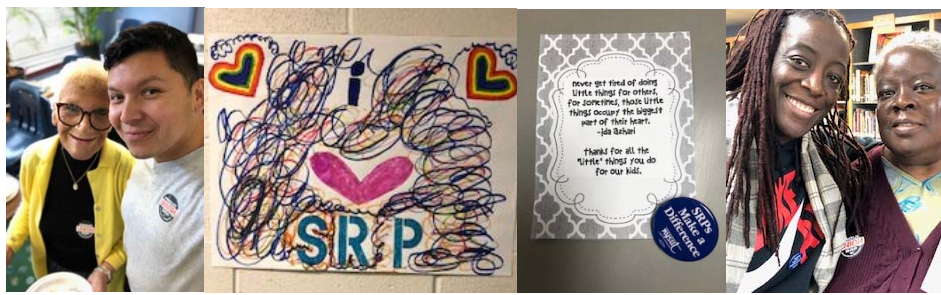
New York State SRP Recognition Day is always celebrated on the third Tuesday of November, often during

American Education week. In 2020 SRP Recognition Day is Nov. 17. It is never too early for locals to begin planning how to celebrate SRPs

Visit www.nysut.org/srpday for information about celebrating the day.



SUNY Broome Community College ESPA members show off their union pride with newly designed logo on their T-shirts.



Greenburgh Federation #11 members celebrate SRP Recognition Day.



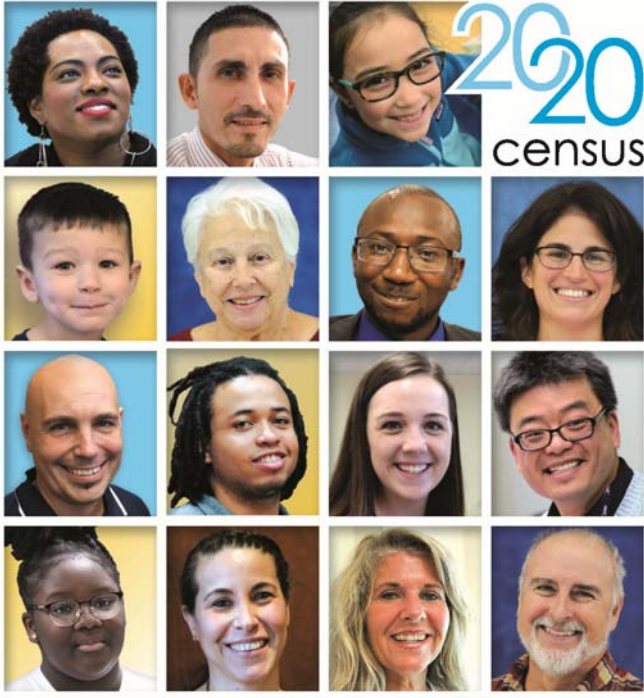
Carrie White @CarrieWhite55 · 1h
This is Mrs. P! She goes above and beyond with her creativity, makes strong connections with our kids and is that “person” for so many students. She is dedicated, hard working and a true asset to @SCSchools @YatesSCSD @sft803 #SFTParasRock



ENL @ENLHamiltonElem · 10h
@sft803 Hamilton para Mr. B does interactive science notebooks with his students in a self-contained special education class, helping them develop content knowledge and critical thinking skills #SFTParasRock



Schenectady FT celebrate their paraprofessionals unit and get traction with their social media campaign #SFTParasRock.



2020 census

NYSUT COUNTS

COMPLETE YOUR CENSUS FORM!



OUR COUNT MATTERS IN THE CENSUS

NYSUT 2020 COUNTS census

why in five!

- 1 Don't let New York get shortchanged.**
We need every single adult and child in NYS to be counted.
- 2 New York could lose congressional seats.**
Fewer seats means less say in federal policymaking.
- 3 New York could lose BILLIONS of dollars.**
Census data determines how the federal government distributes more than \$700 billion for schools, hospitals and roads.
- 4 The census is safe for ALL state residents.**
The law prohibits the census bureau from sharing personal data with other federal agencies.
- 5 Because it's easy.**
Filling out your census form only takes a few minutes online.

nysutcounts.org/pledge #CountMeIn #NYSUTcounts



SRP incentive to pre-RA leader conference

The Pre-NYSUT RA Local & Retiree Council Presidents Conference will be held Thursday, April 30–Friday, May 1, 2020, and will include a workshop on SRP issues.

NYSUT is offering reimbursement on costs of a double-occupancy rate hotel room and travel for SRP presidents (and up to two SRP chapter presidents for umbrella locals) for Thursday, April 30, 2020.

Note: This is a reimbursement offer. Participants must pay the hotel upon checkout and submit a voucher, with original receipts, to NYSUT after the conference.

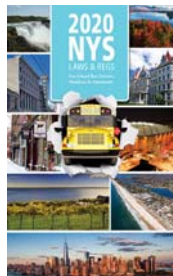
Local presidents with questions should contact Jennifer Kaseman at jennifer.kaseman@nysut.org.



Where NYSUT members learn from NYSUT members

NYSUT's Education & Learning Trust offers affordable seminars for School-Related Professionals, both in person and online. Visit www.nysut.org/elt to view the current offerings and see how affordable professional learning can be. Earn CTLE credit by taking ELT seminars.

NYSUT ELT, celebrating 40 years of providing NYSUT members with high-quality professional development. Call 800-528-6208.



PTSI booklet available for locals

We still have some copies of the Pupil Transportation safety Institute's **2020 NYS Laws & Regs for School Bus Drivers, Monitors & Attendants** booklet available for locals.

NYSUT will send the booklets to your local at no cost. Supplies are limited, order now and be up to date on the current regulations. Contact Tammie Waldenmaier at tammie.waldenmaier@nysut.org.



The **SRP NewsLink** is published periodically by NYSUT Program Services.

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