

SRPNewsLink

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

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One Voice United: It matters!

By Elma Sprague

SRP Advisory Committee and
Guilderland TA member

The One Voice United rally was an awesome display of courage, fortitude and righteous indignation. I hope policy-makers and our elected officials were listening to our voices. At least we had a show of unity which boosted our morale.

We will take our renewed sense of pride in our profession and our colleagues and bring the messages home to our communities, spreading the word and advocating for respect for our students and fairness and common



tal, to raise our voices fighting for the future of public education. We made signs, gathered in large numbers, waved those signs, sang, listened to

sense when laws are being made that affect both our students and our educators.

Many of us boarded buses or rode in car-pools and headed to Albany, our state capital,

stirring speeches, yelled our agreements when speakers like Dick Iannuzzi and Randy Weingarten (among others) spoke about “doing it right” and “not giving up.” We were motivated to make a difference in our communities, in our schools, in our government. This sense of unity, togetherness, pride and urgency shall propel us to continue our fight to bring sanity back to public education, and to fix what others keep attempting to break! There truly is strength in numbers. We thank our NYSUT leaders for being there and helping to guide us through these difficult times!

Summer workers in our schools — SRPs making a difference!

By Carol Solan, New Hartford
Employees' Union

Summer — quiet? I don't know about your building, but each summer our high school complex is home to a driver education program, swim lessons, music lessons, marching band practices, Drum Corps housing, basketball camps and teacher training sessions. In late July, the fall sports teams

begin practice. All of these invite a host of phone calls requesting directions, hours and contact information.

With the fewest people possible, because of budget constraints, the custodians empty, clean and wax the floors of each classroom and then move everything back in. They clean lockers, shampoo rugs and shine up the hallway floors each summer. All of this is done while delivering the supplies that arrive daily. If they're lucky, there will be only a few room changes for them to handle!

The building secretary manages locker assignments, teacher mailboxes and personnel files, sorting district mail, room and phone changes, updating calendars, staff lists, emergency

phone trees and putting away supplies. She also prepares student working papers and fields phone calls.

I don't know if any one of us could tell you how it's all accomplished. Piece-by-piece is the best description. Once you have all the information, it pulls together. Unfortunately, some summers this happens in the last two weeks of August!

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Nyack SRPs: Making a difference in our community

By Nyack SRP Member Mobilization Team

The Nyack SRPs are excited to share this month's involvement in the Kids Run 2, Saturday, June 8, at Rockland Lake. SRPs had the opportunity to sponsor, volunteer and participate in this year's event. This is our first community event mobilized by a team of SRP's. Since 75 percent of SRPs live within the Nyack/Valley Cottage district, we realize the importance of supporting our community, the families, and most importantly, the children in our public schools. The Kids Run 2, which represents adopting a healthier lifestyle, gave us the opportunity to do just that by supporting our PTAs and the lives of the children we affect.

We are so thankful to the Nyack SRP volunteers and participants. Volunteers appeared on the scene in their SRP T-shirts at 7 a.m. to set up. Others were placed in various stations throughout the race helping with the fruit and bagel station, distributing medals, cheerleading and clean up. As families finished the two-mile race, they were greeted by SRP's at our sponsorship table with fun games such as basketball and a beanbag toss game. All Nyack families received a goodie bag prior to the race with a labeled water bottle stating "Nyack School-Related Professionals' Association Supporting Our Community's Children" and a flyer detailing our roles as SRPs in the Nyack School District.



This event exemplified what we stand for as a unit and unified us as SRP members. It is the Nyack SRPs goal to continue to enhance our community by contributing and promoting organized functions that have a direct effect on the community and Nyack families!

IMPORTANT DATES

NEA Convention

July 1-6 Atlanta

AFT Teach

July 22-24 Washington, D.C.

NYSUT LAP

July 15-19 Saratoga Springs

NYSUT SRP Leadership Conference

Sept. 27-29 Saratoga Springs

NYSUT BOCES Leadership Conference

Oct. 18-19 The Desmond, Albany

SRPs making a difference! *continued from page 1*

By Claire Quirk, president, Massapequa Federation of Teachers, A Union of Teachers & Secretaries



The summer months are very busy for the clerical workers in the Massapequa School District. Once school is out, we input graduation statistics for more than 600 students into computers. Graduates' final transcripts are sent to their colleges, and to the NCAA Clearinghouse for seniors and juniors that will be playing a sport in college. We file health records for graduates and clear files of past graduates to get them ready for microfilm.

After summer school ends, we enter those students' information into computer file history. We update August graduates, move files into the proper guidance counselors' offices once the new breakdown is done. We must also interfile all dropouts and/or transfer students from previous year into the past year's class.

Graduate files must be archived and new 10th grade records from 9th grade school must be checked and put into proper guidance counselors' offices. We also

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Dick Iannuzzi
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Vice President
Kathleen M. Donahue
Secretary-Treasurer
Lee Cutler



New York State United Teachers
800 Troy-Schenectady Road
Latham, NY 12110-2455
518-213-6000
800-342-9810

Contact: Margaret MacCartney
e-mail: mmaccart@nysutmail.org

SRPs making a difference!

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handle requests for transcripts and health records. We file SAT and ACT results and prepare building permits for the year ahead.

We also answer letters and calls about our fall mini-college series and send out schedules for the entire school district. As in every school district, once schedules go out we are inundated with phone calls from students and parents wanting to change schedules!

We assist parents and students who come in with whatever they need. We set up interviews for new hires and send out information mailings for the beginning of school to approximately 2,100 students.



By Karen Arthmann, chair, SRP Advisory Committee, president Rush-Henrietta Employee Association

During the school year I work at a large suburban high school doing security; so, during the summer, my break consists of six weeks of working with special needs children whose Individualized Education Plans designate that they have a year-round school program. I have worked with high school and elementary levels, and this year I have pre-middle school ages.

The work is interesting and challenging. Although class sizes are small, many students have autism and may have oppositional defiance disorder, be non-verbal, or have control issues on many levels. I have only a few short weeks to earn the trust and respect I must have in order to help them maintain the level of skill it has taken them all year to achieve.

Some people may think that spending most of the summer this way may not be much of a way to spend their vacation, but I know that helping these special kids hang on to their hard-earned achievements is important. The relationships I build with them are not only gratifying, but ones I look forward to returning to the next summer. It may not be everyone's choice, but it is one I gladly make and even if the kids don't or can't tell me that they're happy I'm there, the hugs and smiles say it better than any words.



A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Karen Lee Arthmann
SRP Advisory Committee chair



As the school year ends, we can reflect back on all the things we have accomplished and all the things we still need to work on. First and foremost, we need to support each other and our union in the work we do to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students. We need to help them stay strong physically, mentally and emotionally as well as academically.

I cannot stress enough to all of you that without School-Related Professionals the schools would not continue to run, the students would not be taken care of as well as they are, and we would not have the benefits we have worked and struggled so long for. It's a package deal and although it's turned in to something of a joke to say, "We're in it for the kids," for us, it is reality.

Our recent rally in Albany on June 8 is living proof of our commitment to our students and to their well-being. I hope you were able to attend and see the dedication and enthusiasm: It was overwhelming and inspiring. Please see the article on the cover page of this issue. You are amazing.

We have our own SRP Conference coming up the end of September and registration is already online, so please register early and register often. (By that I mean bring as many people as your budgets will allow.) It's important to not only hear about our issues, but to gain as much professional development as possible, because many schools don't provide as much as we need or would like.

I wish you all a safe and healthy summer, and I hope our year-round SRPs will enjoy a little rest and relaxation also. Stay strong and stay united.

Take care,
Karen

Common Core State Standards for SRPs

By Cheryl Ainspan, president, Guilderland Teaching Assistant Unit

The AFT PSRP Conference in late March was the debut of the work by the Common Core State Standards PSRP Committee. Formed last summer under the guidance of the American Federation of Teachers, this group includes three NYSUT members; Sandra Colosimo and Jayme Smith from the Buffalo Education Support Team and Cheryl Ainspan from the Guilderland Teaching Assistant unit of the Guilderland Teachers Association. Cathy Peach of the North Suburban Teachers Union (near Chicago) and Donna Jackson of the Detroit Federation of Paraprofessionals are also part of the team.



Front row, Deb Martiniano; next row, Patty Delnegro, Ann Crupi, Christine Groat; back row-standing, Barb Horan (all from Guilderland).

The workshops began with an overview of CCSS — what it is, who created it, why it's important, where it is being implemented and how SRPs can support the change. The first subject-specific presentation focused on the ELA shifts of the Common Core; detailing the

changes within the strands of reading, writing, speaking and listening and language. Activities included developing text-dependent questions from a reading of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.



From left: Cathy Peach, Sandra Colosimo, Jayme Smith, Melanie Hobbs (with the AFT Educational Issues department), Cheryl Ainspan, and Donna Jackson.

Another presentation covered the three major shifts in math, which are focus, coherence and rigor. As participants entered the room, they saw large easel paper posted around the room with a different number on each. They were asked to write that number in as many ways as they could think of, which is a strategy for decomposing numbers. With a 3D number line with rope and clothespins; participants had to correctly put pre-numbered cards in the correct order, regardless of whether it was a fraction, decimal, whole number or square root. This and other activities presented could be used by SRPs in their classrooms to work with students on number sense, number equivalences and more.

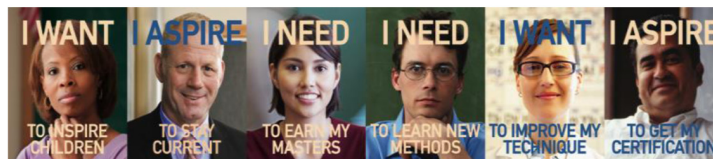
The work of this committee is far from done. They will receive additional training this summer and hope to train SRP trainers for future needs across the country.

NYSUT Welcomes New SRP Members

NYSUT is pleased to bring new SRP members into our great union! Welcome to the Westfield CSD Support Staff Union and the Teacher Aides at Brockton all in the Southwestern NY region, the Gateway Aides & Monitors in Western NY, and also the Astor Residential Staff Association in the Mid-Hudson region.

**SRPs
Make a
Difference**

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NEW Seminars Out This Fall

- ✓ **Poverty: The Impact on Learning**
- ✓ **Common Core Standards: What SRPs Need to Know**

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Social Services: Counseling in times of stress

Source: NYSUT Social Services

From time to time, major changes in our lives tax our ability to cope. Injuries, health problems, providing caregiving, a child leaving home for college, a change in job responsibilities or divorce, or living on a relatively reduced income in retirement are a few examples of transitional problems which precipitate stress. These types of problems are normal, if not predictable, for most of us at certain points in our lives.

Although common, these issues may cascade, leading to feelings of chaos, unmanageability and even hopelessness. If the effects of these transitional problems are not monitored, our inherent strengths and resiliency may be compromised.

Counseling can help. Even a short course of counseling with an objective and emphatic professional can reinforce your strengths and help you adapt to change. Effective counseling will highlight your previous mastery of problems and will help you see that what you are experiencing is normal and even similar to other problems you've coped with in the past.

The counselor's understanding and support of your problem-solving strategies to date will be an important catalyst to adaptation. A counselor also reminds you that pacing yourself and remaining patient in the adjustment process will relieve the stress of trying to meet a pre-determined timetable for resolution. Reflective listening by a counselor helps you better understand

your struggles. As a result of such interventions, hope is renewed and acceptance of change ensues.

Engagement in the counseling process need not be for any prescribed period of time, but adjustment can occur in a relatively short time.

NYSUT's Social Services Department helps union members with decisions about counseling, elder care and other social issues — including tapping into networks of services in communities around New York state. Don't go it alone. If you think that counseling could help you accept and adapt to stressful life changes, call us at 800-342-9810, ext. 6206. We will help you get the help you need.

The peace of mind that insurance offers

You've spent your life working to take care of yourself and your family. Have you also considered preparing for your later years with a long-term care insurance plan? Take the time to look into the cost of a long-term care plan tailored to your specific needs.

Long-term care insurance helps to pay the high cost of nursing home care or in-home assistance that can arise from a long-term illness or injury. It can help to ease the burden during a stressful time and keep you from having to rely on those family or friends for assistance.

And don't just automatically assume

it is something that is not affordable. Long-term care insurance may be much more affordable than you realize, and it truly costs nothing to check it out.

If you're looking for some peace of mind, why not take a look at the new long-term care program endorsed by the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust? New York Long-Term Care Brokers serves as a nationally-recognized insurance intermediary offering access to long-term care insurance plans from multiple highly-rated insurance companies (including the New York State Partnership for Long-Term Care) for eligible individuals from 18 to 84

years old.

For more information about this new endorsed offering, contact New York Long-Term Care Brokers toll-free at 888-884-0077. You can also contact Member Benefits with any questions at 800-626-8101 or visit memberbenefits.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.

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 and registration link is found on SRP Leader Access page at www.nysut.org. **Registration deadline is Aug. 27.**

I urge all our SRP leaders to register for the 2013 NYSTU SRP Leadership Conference," said NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue. "The conference is rich with professional development opportunities that represent what SRPs need to know now. And it is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other SRPs from around the state."



NYSUT V.P.
Kathleen Donahue