

SRP NewsLink

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

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SRP Recognition Day a huge success!

SRPs
Make a
Difference

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Locals across the state celebrated the contributions of School-Related Professionals on Nov. 19, SRP Recognition Day. NYSUT sent out more than 40,000 "SRPs Make a Difference" pins to locals who requested them, along with posters and celebration guides.

Some locals held dinners celebrating their members. Others provided members with goodies and smiles. Several NYSUT regional offices celebrated the work of the support staff leaders and members at celebratory functions in their regions.

NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue taped a special recognition day message on the NYSUT website wishing all support staff professionals a special day and thanking them for all their work. "SRPs are the backbone of our public education system," said Donahue. She thanked SRPs for a job well done from the NYSUT officers. Visit nysut.org/srprecognitionday to view the video.

Go to the NYSUT website photo gallery at www.nysut.org to see photos of the Hempstead Teaching Assistant Association's SRP Recognition Day celebration.

Be sure to email NYSUT SRP Coordinator, Margaret MacCartney, at mmaccart@nysutmail.org with information and photos of how your members celebrated SRP Recognition Day.



NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer Lee Cutler (far right), with Capital District SRP members at NYSUT HQ. SRP Advisory Committee member, Elma Sprague, (bottom, far left) helped organize the celebration.



JONATHAN FICKIES

On Long Island (from left), Hempstead BOE President Betty Cross, Treasurer LaMont Johnson and VP Joann Simmons, Hempstead TAA President Sirlentor Berry, First VP Anita Reynolds, Second VP Laquana King and NYSUT staffer Margaret MacCartney during the local's SRP Recognition Day dinner.

INSIDE

Leadership conference coverage

Page 2

A view from the Chair

Page 3

Welcome new locals

Page 4

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

SRP Leadership Conference: Unionism at its very best!

Those of you who were at the 2013 SRP conference in September will remember what a great event it was! The evaluations are in and they are very positive about the format, workshops, speakers and networking opportunities. NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue called SRPs “the important thread in the fabric that is NYSUT.”

It was with great pride that the SRPs at the conference raised \$3,255 for the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund through raffle and T-shirt sales; filled three large tubs of toiletries for the local family shelter; and collected 1,125 new books that were donated to the children at

the Liverpool Central School District.

NYSUT has received notes and letters from Liverpool thanking SRPs for their generosity and kindness with the book gift. The books will be shared between four elementary schools and will make a huge difference to the children. A heartfelt thank you comes from their school community.

Be sure to go to the NYSUT website photo gallery and check out the more than 60 photos that have been posted of the event!

Save the date for next year's conference, Oct. 24-26, 2014, at the Desmond hotel in Albany.



NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue

IMPORTANT DATES

NEA ESP Conference

March 7-9 — San Francisco

Committee of 100

March 3-4 — Desmond Hotel, Albany

NYSUT Local Presidents Conference

April 3-4 — Hilton, New York City

NYSUT Representative Assembly

April 4-6 — Hilton, New York City

AFT PSRP Conference

April 11-13 — Orlando, Fla.

Call for nominations

■ SRP of the Year Nomination

This important award recognizes the important contributions School -Related Professionals make. SRPs make a huge difference in our students' lives every day. Nominate one of your leaders or members today for this prestigious award.



■ NYSUT Life Line Honor Roll

Many times our members risk their own safety and lives to save the life of another. As we enter the 15th anniversary of this award, NYSUT is looking to add to its Life Line Honor Roll by listing the names of those members who have saved a life during 2013. Individuals will be recognized with a personal plaque and their names will also be displayed at the 2014 NYSUT Representative Assembly.

SRPNewsLink

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A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Karen Lee Arthmann
SRP Advisory Committee chair



Dear Friends,

I hope everyone enjoyed a successful and happy School-Related Professionals Day! I hope you were given the recognition you so richly deserve, and I hope most of all that you remembered to thank your fellow SRPs for lightening your load and being your best support of all. Within this newsletter are some events that took place in our honor.

The NEA and AFT conferences will be coming up soon, so please check out the information contained in this newsletter for not only what the conferences will entail, but how to access the two-for-one incentives that NYSUT generously offers.

VOTE-COPE is one way of making our voices heard. VOTE-COPE

does not mean “Vote and deal with it.” It is an acronym meaning Voice of Teachers in Education-Committee on Political Education.

VOTE-COPE is the union’s voluntary political action fund. It is up to us to educate and inform our members why this is so important. Our contributions are the only monies that are allowed to be used to further our goals.

I thank you for your generosity and encourage you to give as much as you can. Buying American and buying union for the holidays is another way of maintaining our unions. NYSUT has produced a great resource guide to help with this. You can find it on the NYSUT website. Please use every oppor-

tunity to do so and keep all our unions strong.

As we go through the holiday season, some of us have heavy hearts because we are missing loved ones or because our personal lives are in turmoil. I hope we will be able to look at all we do have: loved ones who lift us up, good jobs that are protected by a strong union and all the many blessings of family and friends we receive all year long.

I wish for you a wonderful, happy holiday and that all those things you desire most deeply come true.

In unity,
Karen

School bus seat belt cutter

NYSUT has a large but limited supply of free five-inch seat belt cutters — an excellent gift for the bus drivers in your local! If you wish to order one cutter or enough for all the drivers in your local, please email Margaret MacCartney at mmaccart@nysutmail.org with the number of cutters you need and where you want them sent. While supplies last only.

We also have more *Pupil Transportation Safety Institute’s 2014 NYS Laws and Regs for School Bus Drivers, Monitors*

and Attendants booklets available for members and locals at no cost. You can also request them from Margaret at the above email address.



NEW Seminars Out This Fall

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

Professional development designed to improve the quality of teaching and learning and advance your career

Visit: nysut.org/elt • Call: 800-528-6208 • 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110





Buy American, Buy union-made

Whenever possible this holiday season buy American and union-made products. In his video address to members, NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi says, "Buying union and buying American are great ways to keep our nation's workforce and businesses productive and strong." Visit nysut.org/buyamerican to view the video.

The NYSUT Communications Department has created a great new pamphlet. This list of resources is a helpful guide to products that are union-made and made in America, but does not imply endorsement or guarantee by NYSUT. Visit www.nysut.org to download and print.

NYSUT 2-for-1 incentive for 2014 NEA and AFT conferences

NYSUT Vice President Kathleen Donahue is pleased to announce that NYSUT is again encouraging and supporting local participation in upcoming national conferences.

Letters will be going out to local presidents in January with information about our annual 2-for-1 incentive to

attend the NEA and AFT conferences. Information will also be posted at www.nysut.org.

The 2014 NEA Education Support Professionals (ESP) Conference will be held March 7-9 at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco.

Go to www.nea.org/esp for conference information and registration.

The 2014 AFT PSRP Conference will be held April 11-13 in Orlando, Fla.

Conference information and registration will be forthcoming in early January on AFT's website — www.aft.org/psrp.

Long Beach School Employees Association: FOUR YEARS IS JUST TOO LONG!!

By Bill Snow, president and Joanne Rea, vice president LBSEA

Members of Long Beach Schools Employees Association (LBSEA) rallied together Oct. 28-31 for an informational "picket" to tell the public that they have been working under the terms of an expired agreement for the past four years. Not only have members not seen an increase in our salaries for four years, but most employees have had their hours cut from 19½ to 17½ hours per week. In the same four years, top administrators have taken a total of 8 percent salary increases, and gave their law firm a 2 percent increase.

"We have only just begun. We will continue to BE BOLD, BE STRONG, BE COURAGEOUS and above all BE



UNITED. We MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY in a child's life," said LBSEA President Bill Snow.

The next step is a "joint coalition" rally with teachers before the upcoming board meeting. Lloyd Berks, LBSEA's NYSUT labor relations specialist and Matt Jacobs, the Nassau Regional Office staff director, will attend to show NYSUT's support.

Welcome new SRP members

NYSUT is pleased to welcome the Elizabethtown-Lewis Support Staff Association, the Brookside Staff Association, the New Paltz Bus Drivers Association and the Early Childhood Staff Union, which has 263 members and approximately a dozen job titles in the unit.

NYSUT annual RA deadlines

All forms are available at Leader Access page at www.nysut.org.

- **Due Jan. 10 to the office of the NYSUT President:** Resolutions
- **Due Jan. 10 to NYSUT Program Services:** SRP of the Year Nomination; NYSUT Life Line Honor Roll
- **Due Feb. 3 to the office of the NYSUT President:** Constitutional Amendments

National School Breakfast Week 2014

It's time to highlight and grow your breakfast program! National School Breakfast Week is **March 3-7, 2014**. The 2014 theme is "Take Time for School Breakfast."

Whether it's the traditional breakfast in the cafeteria, breakfast in the classroom, or grab and go, school breakfast can be a real timesaver for families during busy weekday mornings. Use the 2014 theme to promote your school breakfast program by spreading

the word to parents and students that school breakfast is convenient, healthy and a real timesaver.

The campaign runs from January-March, culminating in National School Breakfast Week March 3-7. For more information, go to School Nutrition Association website at www.asfsa.org.

NYSUT represents approximately 3,000 food service workers in New York state. Food service professionals provide a basic component of student

success — nutrition — which influences students' behavior, energy levels, thinking, physical health and overall well-being.

Thanks for all you do!



Member Benefits announces new program offerings

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation recently endorsed two

new discount programs designed to help NYSUT members and their family members save money on important purchases — the Travelzoo program and MyForce personal safety service.

Travelzoo, a global Internet media company and publisher of travel, entertainment and local deals, offers NYSUT members and their families savings of up to 65

percent at restaurants, spas, museums and other locations.

The company also offers getaways that include stays at the finest inns, hotels and resorts across the U.S. combined with exclusive hotel perks and amenities.

Travelzoo's experts review each deal to find, verify and publish only the best deals on the market. Please note that many of these deals are offered for a limited period of time.

If you have children or grandchildren attending college, or loved ones who work late at night, MyForce is a great idea for them. This service offers immediate emergency assistance with just the touch of a button on supported iPhone, Android or Blackberry smartphones.

MyForce is available 24/7 in all 50

states in the U.S., Puerto Rico and Canada. NYSUT members and their family members can save up to 33 percent on the monthly fee for this program and an additional 20 percent by paying the annual fee.

For more information about either of these offerings or any of the Member Benefits-endorsed programs and services, please call 800-626-8101 or visit the NEW Member Benefits website at 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.



Award winners from Sullivan West

By Hilda Monfredo, 2013 NYSUT SRP of the Year and Western Sullivan United Teachers and SRP Executive VP

The Mid-Hudson School Study Council has chosen three people from the Sullivan West Central School as this year's winners of the annual Award for Excellence.

Barbara Leroy, an elementary aide and Pat Hawker, school nurse, are



Pictured clockwise from left are WSUT and SRP members Barbara Leroy, a teacher aide, Pat Hawker, school nurse and Mary Scheutow, BOE member.

members of the Western Sullivan United Teachers and SRP local. Great job, ladies! Your union sisters and brothers are proud to work with you.

Congratulations also go out to Pine Bush SRP Association members Mary Ellen Cook, who won the Mid-Hudson Award for Excellence for Support Staff, and to Gail Blackwell, who won the Pine Bush Christopher Bement Award for this year.