

42nd Annual
NYSUT School-Related Professionals Virtual Leadership Conference
October 23 – 25, 2020

OPENING SESSION

Friday, October 23, 2020

6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Welcome and Introductions

- Greetings and Remarks from Ronald Gross, *NYSUT Second Vice President*
- Introduction of the NYSUT Officers
- Member Benefits

7:00 – 7:45 p.m. Plenary: “Vote”

Speakers: Alithia Rodriguez-Rolon, *NYSUT Director of Legislation*; John Green, *NYSUT Legislative Representative*

SESSION I – IMPROVING THE LIVES OF MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY

Saturday, October 24, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Harnessing the Power of Political Action to Engage Members

Fight back against the continued attacks against labor unions by engaging your members and getting them involved in the political and legislative process. In this workshop participants will learn about a broad range of topics, including: the structure of NYSUT’s Legislative and Political Department; the endorsement process for political candidates; an analysis of the end of the 2019 Legislative Session; and how locals can participate in creating better political outcomes in their communities and regions.

Presenter: Peter Kim, *NYSUT Regional Political Organizer, Capital District Regional Office*

Stopping Privatization!

The current state of affairs in our nation and schools should not paralyze our activism, particularly when it comes to resisting the privatization of School-Related Professionals. Social justice has always been a hard fight in this nation, and we have seldom been able to choose ideal timing or conditions in which to assert our rights. We can and will fight privatization today, and tomorrow, regardless of conditions. Participate in this webinar to learn logistics and techniques, and be inspired, to do what is necessary to keep public education out of the hands of profiteers.

Presenter: Tim Barchak, Senior Policy Analyst, National Educational Association

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Coping with Uncertainty, Trauma and Stress

The COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted virtually every area of our lives. This workshop will focus on how to cope with the stress and anxiety of these times. We will identify and examine helpful strategies through lecture, self-administered assessment and discussion. Attention will be given to strengthening our resources and what we do well, while also recognizing areas that can be improved.

Presenter: Ani Shahinian, MCSW, *NYSUT Social Services*

Poverty and its Effects on Learning *(ELT Course)*

This seminar explores the effects of poverty and other socioeconomic issues, on student learning. Focus will be centered on six types of poverty: generational, situational, absolute, relative, urban and rural. The training will engage participants in various activities that will assist them in understanding how to effectively work with students from low socioeconomic status. During the program participants will discuss and examine how poverty affects learning, the importance of building relationships, connecting with the community, and creating a classroom environment that promotes learning through research-based practices.

Presenter: Kathy Sawall, *NYSUT Education & Learning Trust Instructor*

1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Health, Safety and Accountability

We have all encountered a hazard in the workplace at some point and some of us have had the unfortunate experience of being injured or becoming ill because of our work. In order to ensure a safe environment for yourself, your colleagues and the school community as a whole, it is imperative that you understand what we can use now to hold your employers accountable. We have laws and regulations that help us get started, but solidarity and organization around safety and health concerns is what we truly need to build union power and a safe workplace. During this seminar we will discuss some of the foundational discussion points and tactics that can be used to achieve this.

Presenter: Veronica Foley, *NYSUT Health and Safety Specialist*

Educational Services for Students with Disabilities

There are many acronyms and initialisms involved in helping to educate students with disabilities, such as CSE, LRE, IEP, 504 to name a few. We'll decipher those and you will learn about your roles and responsibilities in educational settings, get a general overview of special education requirements, and receive information on the federal and state laws and regulations that govern the education of students with disabilities.

Presenter: Dave Rothfuss, *NYSUT Research and Education Services*

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Organizing Members in Times of Crisis

Don't let the social distancing, face coverings and virtual reality limit the work of your union. Learn strategies to safely meet your members (and potential members) where they are- be that face to face, over the phone, or on-line in order to build engagement around contract campaigns, workplace issues, and union membership.

Presenters: Alexandra Castillo-Kesper, *NYSUT Organizer*; James MacFawn, *NYSUT Organizer*

Using Social Media to Build Power in your SRP Local

Facebook, Twitter and other social media can be a powerful addition to your union work. In this workshop you will learn to good, the bad and the ugly of social media and best practices for harnessing its power.

Presenter: Bryan Thomas, *NYSUT Online Communications Coordinator*

SESSION II – FOCUSING ON YOU AS A LEADER

Sunday, October 25, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Roundtable Meeting with the SRP At-Large Directors for Local Presidents and Chapter Chairs

Shaping a stronger future for SRPs requires leadership and collective strength at both the state and local levels. During this open forum, local presidents and chapter chairs will have an opportunity to share union and workplace issues of importance to their members with NYSUT's SRP At-Large Directors.

Facilitators: Karen Lee Arthmann, *Rush-Henrietta Educ. Association*; Sandra Carner-Shafran, *Saratoga Adirondack BOCES Emp. Association*; Deborah Paulin, *Alden Central School Employees Association*; Angelina Rivera, *Rochester Association of Paraprofessionals*; Shelly Young Abrams, *United Federation of Teachers*