

Special virtual RA to be held May 14

The union's annual policy-making convention will be held May 14 as a limited, virtual event. The Board voted for the change as *NYSUT United* went to press.

"In order to prevent the further spread of the COVID-19 virus, we must continue to take measures to limit physical contact while engaging our members in new, meaningful ways," said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. "Although we found ourselves under these social distancing restrictions in a matter of days, we understand that they will not be lifted as quickly so we must prepare for a gradual, measured return."

That gradual return means the union convention, originally scheduled for May 1-2 will now be a virtual event.

The virtual RA, open to all reported delegates, will feature an agenda limited to just three items:

- A report of the Credentials Committee;
- A report by President Pallotta outlining the union's path forward and presenting the procedures for mail-ballot elections; and
- A candidate forum to allow those candidates who have previously requested such participation,



in accordance with the 2020 Election Procedures, to speak to delegates.

All other matters before the RA, including resolutions, adoption of the legislative program, and the endorsement of a candidate for the state Teachers' Retirement System board will be referred to the NYSUT Board for consideration at future meetings. RA elections for NYSUT officers, members of the Board, and state delegates and alternate state delegates to the American Federation of Teachers will be conducted according to procedures adopted by the NYSUT Board and

outlined below.

Social distancing guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control has prompted the cancellation or postponement of mass gatherings scheduled throughout the summer months. The Board also voted to cancel or postpone all in-person NYSUT meetings and conferences through Sept. 1, including Leadership Institute, LAP, the NYSUT Endorsement Conference, the New Local Presidents Conference and regional leadership conferences. The union is investigating hosting some events virtually.

For more information, visit nysut.org/ra.

[RULES OF PROCEDURE AND ADDENDUM TO THE CAMPAIGN & ELECTION PROCEDURES]

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, DUE TO THE GLOBAL CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THAT HAS RESULTED IN THE WIDESPREAD CLOSURE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COLLEGE CAMPUSES, AND NON-ESSENTIAL WORKPLACES AND THE CANCELLATION OF MASS GATHERINGS ACROSS NEW YORK AS WELL AS MANDATORY STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS AS REQUIRED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, AN ELECTION FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS, PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 1, 2020, AT 5 P.M., DURING THE 2020 NYSUT REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY AT THE NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER EMPIRE STATE PLAZA, ALBANY, N.Y., WILL BE CONDUCTED VIA MAIL BALLOT FOLLOWING A LIMITED, SPECIAL VIRTUAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020, AT 5 P.M., IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BELOW WHICH ARE IN ADDENDUM TO THE 2020 CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION PROCEDURES PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED BY THE NYSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND PUBLISHED IN THE JANUARY/FEBRUARY ISSUE OF *NYSUT UNITED*.

CREDENTIALS AND ELECTORS

All delegates previously reported to NYSUT by the March 11, 2020, Election Certification Report deadline, or otherwise credentialed through the previously established hearing process, will be deemed credentialed delegates to the special meeting of the Representative Assembly to be held May 14, 2020, and are thereby deemed eligible electors to the 2020 NYSUT RA Elections in accordance with the previously adopted 2020 Campaign and Election Procedures.

LIMITED SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

The NYSUT Board of Directors is authorizing a special meeting of the NYSUT Representative Assembly, to be held virtually on May 14, 2020, at 5 p.m., for the limited purpose of hearing from nominees virtually and an explanation of the voting process for the elections that would have occurred at the May 1-2 Representative Assembly, followed by a mail-ballot election described in the procedures below. All other matters that would otherwise be taken up by the 2020 Representative Assembly, including proposed resolutions and special orders of business, will be referred to the NYSUT Board of Directors for consideration at a later date to be determined by the Board.

PUBLICATION OF NOTICE

This notice of addendum to the 2020 Campaign & Election Procedures will be mailed to all reported delegates to the 2020 NYSUT Representative Assembly and will appear in the May/June 2020 issue of *NYSUT United* along with a reminder of the original publication of the 2020 Nomination & Election and Campaign & Election Procedures that appeared in the January/February 2020 issue of *NYSUT United*.

MAILING LABELS

Any candidate who previously requested access to mailing labels in accordance with the adopted 2020 Nomination & Election Campaign and Election Procedures shall be eligible to use a bona fide outside mailing service to deliver campaign material to eligible electors. Requests to utilize such services must be received by the Elections Committee by May 8, 2020. Candidates should contact the Elections Committee at elections@nysut.org if they wish to coordinate such services.

NOMINEE'S FORUM

Nominees for NYSUT Officers, NYSUT At-Large Directors and AFT State Federation Delegates and AFT Alternate State Delegates to the AFT Convention ("statewide offices") and nominees for Election District Director shall be given the opportunity to speak

to the RA during a special meeting of the NYSUT Representative Assembly, to be held virtually on Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 5 p.m., for the limited purpose of hearing from nominees virtually and an explanation of the voting process for the elections that would have occurred at the May 1-2, 2020, Representative Assembly.

In order to be eligible to participate in the Nominees' Forum, a candidate must have completed and returned the Statewide Offices Nominees' Forum Participant Request Form contained in the Candidate Nominating Petition to the Elections Committee by no later than 5 p.m. on Feb. 7, 2020. The time allocated shall be divided equally among the nominees for the same position. The order of speaking shall be determined by lot. Groups of nominees may pool their time. Candidates may withdraw their participation in the Nominees' Forum at any time.

CONDUCTING ELECTIONS

All elections shall be conducted via mail ballot in accordance with the following procedures, and those previously adopted by the NYSUT Board of Directors. If, following the period of open nominations, there was only one candidate who has filed a validated nominating petition to fill any vacant position, the Chair of the Election

Committee shall certify that voting is unnecessary and the Secretary-Treasurer shall be directed to cast a single vote on behalf of that candidate at a Board meeting immediately following the conclusion of the Special Virtual RA on May 14, 2020.

A. Voter Eligibility

In order to be eligible to vote in the mail ballot NYSUT Representative Assembly Elections, a delegate must have been reported to NYSUT by the March 11, 2020 Elections Certification Report deadline, or otherwise credentialed through the previously established hearing process prior to May 14, 2020. A voter eligibility list will be generated based on this list of credentialed

delegates as of May 14, 2020, at 5 p.m.

B. Mailing and Collecting Ballots

Ballots will be mailed to each eligible voter’s last known address, in accordance with LMRDA guidelines, on Tuesday, May 26, 2020, and must be returned to NYSUT postmarked by Monday, June 15, 2020, and received by NYSUT no later than Monday, June 22, 2020, at 5 p.m. at which time, or as soon afterward as possible, tabulation shall commence.

C. Voting Tabulation & Elections Reporting

Election tabulation will be administered by a certified third-party vendor to include tabulation and results

certification.

Write-in votes will not be counted nor be part of any tabulation.

The certified election results and vote total per candidate, following the tabulation of votes and the Elections Committee’s certification of the election, will be reported in the next available *NYSUT United* and posted at nysut.org.

D. Runoff Procedure

In the event that the Elections Committee determines that a run-off election needs to be held, the run-off election or run-off elections will be held as mail-ballot elections at a time to be determined and announced by the Elections Committee Chair.

E. Observers

Candidates may observe or designate an observer or observers to observe the tabulation process in a manner to be determined by the Elections Committee and which is in compliance with public health recommendations. Observers need not be elected delegates or alternates to the Representative Assembly.

Each candidate must register the name of each observer with the NYSUT Elections Committee before 5 p.m. on May 14, 2020, at which point the Elections Committee will determine the method of observation. Candidates may email their requests to the Elections Committee at elections@nysut.org.

Retiree council elections postponed

Due to the COVID-19 health care crisis and related government restrictions of large-group gatherings and business operations across New York, the following Retiree Council meetings and elections, which were previously scheduled for March–July 2020, have been postponed until further notice.

- RC 1** — Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 2** — May 14, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 3** — March 9, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 6** — May 7, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 7** — May 19, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 9** — June 25, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 10** — June 4, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED* (more information available at rc10.ny.aft.org)
- RC 11** — May 4, 2020, Elections

POSTPONED

- RC 14** — Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 15/16** — June 11, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 17** — May 5, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 18** — June 15, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 19** — June 9, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 21** — May 12, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 22** — Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 23** — June 3, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 45** — June 9, 2020, Elections *POSTPONED*
- RC 46** — Elections *POSTPONED*

Retiree council members will be contacted with new information as it becomes available and will be notified by U.S. mail when elections are rescheduled.

Please direct all questions to elections@nysut.org.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION NYSUT BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCY ELECTION DISTRICT 8

A vacancy exists on the NYSUT Board of Directors for Election District 8. The vacancy was created by the resignation of David Derouchie, effective April 13, 2020.

In accordance with the NYSUT Constitution, Article IX, §§4(a) and 4(b): “Directors representing Election Districts shall be elected on a roll call vote by a majority of ballots cast by the representatives from their respective constituencies ... [and in] ... the event of a vacancy in the position of Election District Director, the President shall call a special election to elect a successor who shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.”

The delegates and alternates of ED 8 are hereby notified that this vacancy will be filled by a Special Mail-Ballot Election to be held as follows:

Pursuant to NYSUT Constitution, Article IX, §4(b) and the approved NYSUT Campaign and Election Procedures, NYSUT members who were reported as elected delegates to the 2020 Representative Assembly representing the members of ED 8 will be eligible to vote in this Special Election.

Nominations to fill this vacancy will be accepted in accordance with the Campaign and Election Procedures approved by the NYSUT Board of Directors adopted for the 2020 Representative Assembly. In order to qualify as a candidate for this Special Election, a Nominating Petition must be fully completed and then signed by at least

two (2) in-service members from ED 8.

The completed and signed Nominating Petition must then be received by the NYSUT Elections Committee by the close of business (**5 p.m.**) on **Friday, June 5, 2020**. Any member in good standing from a NYSUT local within ED 8 may be a candidate. Only in-service members in good standing from ED 8 may sign a candidate’s Nominating Petition. Nominating Petitions are available by contacting the NYSUT Elections Committee at elections@nysut.org or by contacting the NYSUT Office of the President at 518-213-6000.

Ballots will be mailed to electors on **Tuesday, July 7, 2020**. Ballots must be returned to NYSUT, postmarked **Friday, July 31, 2020**, and received by NYSUT Elections Committee by the close of business (**4 p.m.**) on **Thursday, Aug. 6, 2020**, for tabulation at that time, or as soon afterward as possible. Candidates may request to use a bona fide outside mailing service to deliver campaign material to eligible electors. Requests to utilize such services must be received by the Elections Committee at the time of nomination.

The candidate elected will serve as successor Election District Director immediately upon being elected at the conclusion of tabulation and continue to serve as the Successor Director to the conclusion of the 2023 Representative Assembly.