

SRP NewsLink

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

SRP Leadership Conference goes virtual for 2020

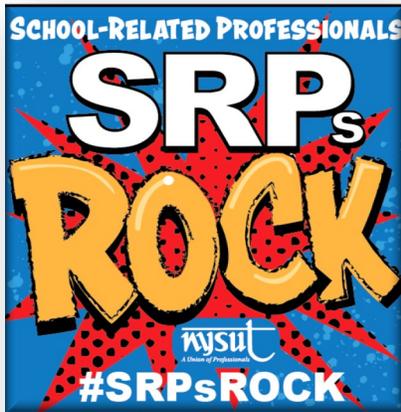
The SRP Leadership Conference will be held virtually this year, in consideration of continuing COVID-19 pandemic gathering restrictions.

The conference, delivered by Zoom, will be held Oct. 23–25, 2020, beginning with the opening session on the evening of Friday, Oct. 23.

“We wanted to make this conference as convenient as we could for NYSUT School-Related Professionals leaders,” said NYSUT Second Vice President Ron Gross, whose office oversees SRP issues for the union. “We are pleased that we could offer the original dates in a virtual format; keeping the health and safety of our SRP members and NYSUT staff at the forefront.”

There is still time to register for the 2020 SRP Leadership Conference.

The 2019 SRP Leadership Conference sold out, but this year’s virtual conference has more seats



available. There is no cost to locals, but local leaders need to register their participants. Participants will be entered for chances to win other prizes depending upon how many workshops they complete. Interested emerging and veteran unionists may view the workshop

agenda and workshop descriptions at www.nysut.org/srpconference.

Local leaders use the registration link at, www.nysut.org/srpconference, to register their members.

Friday, Oct. 23, is the opening session, which includes a Member Benefits presentation, a plenary session and a Member Benefits basket raffle.

On Saturday, Oct. 24, there are four sessions, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Participants can choose between eight workshops covering health and safety,

organizing, special education concerns, social emotional well-being, union advocacy, communications and more.

On Sunday, Oct. 25, the morning session is a roundtable for local presidents and chapter chairs.



ANDREW WATSON

Reggie Colvin, United Federation of Teachers, at the 2019 SRP Leadership Conference.

Visit www.nysut.org/srpconference to see workshop offerings and contact your local president or chapter chair to register for the conference.

Welcome NYSUT 2nd VP Ronald Gross



NYSUT 2nd VP Ronald Gross

Ronald Gross was elected NYSUT’s second vice president at NYSUT’s online Representative Assembly in May 2020.

Gross oversees School-Related Professionals issues for the union

as part of the program services department.

Prior to becoming a NYSUT officer, Gross was president of the William Floyd United Teachers for more than 11 years.

Gross was born and raised in the William Floyd community; for 30 years he taught social studies at William Floyd High School, his alma mater. He holds a bachelor’s degree from SUNY Cortland and a master’s degree from SUNY Stony Brook.

As part of his union work, Gross strives to foster unity among NYSUT members and to highlight the value of union membership. He believes that when union members work in solidarity, there are few goals that can’t be achieved.

Follow him on Twitter [@NYSUT2VP](https://twitter.com/NYSUT2VP).

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Nov. 17

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IMPORTANT DATES:

National School Bus Safety Week

Oct. 19–23

SRP Leadership Conference

Oct. 23–25, Virtual, see page 1

American Education Week

Nov. 16–20, nationwide

SRP Recognition Day

Nov. 17, statewide

Voting Deadlines:

Mail voting

Apply online by Oct. 27

Ballot postmarked by Nov. 3

Early voting

Oct. 24–Nov 1, 2020

Absentee voting

Oct. 14–Nov. 1

In-person voting, election day

Nov. 3

visit www.nyust.org/Vote2020 or
www.elections.ny.gov

SRPs support education in person and online

The pandemic upended the way usual way of providing education and other services for our SRP members, communities and students.

But resilient SRPs have continued to step up to the challenge of educating students remotely, preparing food and delivering it to students offsite, keeping the buildings clean, providing clerical support off and onsite. The photos at right show some of the ways SRP made a difference in the spring and summer and continue to do so during the phased in re-opening.

Mark Warner, a teaching assistant and member of the Syracuse Teachers Association, used his engaging photography in his work.

“My classroom teacher asked to use some of my photos in writing prompts for students,” said Warner, who provided the lion picture at right, along with several others, to ignite student imagination.

NYSUT President Andy Pallotta visited several SRP locals, including Albany Public Schools United Employees Association and Central Valley United Employees, and saw first hand how SRPs make a difference in their schools and communities during the pandemic.

“SRPs are providing invaluable



Photos (from top): Lion photo used to spark inspiration in remote education writing prompt; Albany Public Schools United Employees member preparing lunches; Central Valley United Employees member prepares meals for distribution.

support in a variety of ways. Our students and our communities are certainly benefiting from this work,” said NYSUT Second Vice President Ron Gross.

Timely resources for SRPs

Have you seen NYSUT’s online **Coronavirus toolkit**? Visit www.nysut.org/coronavirus for a gateway to resources on the coronavirus outbreak, including specific guidance for public school employees, higher education faculty and to our members who work in health care. You will also find CARES Act information.

The webpage is updated regularly and includes the latest information on responding schools and best practices for cleaning. There are links to helpful fact sheets and guidance specific to SRP leaders and SRP members.

School re-opening guidance can be found at www.nysut.org/reopening.

NYSUT has **SRP Fact Sheets** on a wide variety of topics. Visit www.nysut.org/factsheets and click on the “School-Related Professionals” link to access.

The **SRP webpages** offer a wealth of information. Access the landing page here at www.nysut.org/srp. From there you can read about the **SRP Leadership Conference** and **SRP Recognition Day**.

Did you know that **NYSUT Social Services** can provide mental health referrals?

If you have been feeling out of sorts, you are not alone. “Times of uncertainty can create a lot of stress and anxiety,” said NYSUT Social Services Specialist Ani Shahinian. “If you are feeling anxious and overwhelmed you may reach out to NYSUT Social Services and speak to a specialist. We have a confidential referral service for members and their families.” Contact NYSUT Social Services at 800-342-9810 or visit www.nysut.org/socialservices.

Resources for laid off members can be found at www.nysut.org/layoff.

School Bus Safety Week Oct. 19–23



School buses are the safest form of transportation today. Safety is a priority in transporting our students to and from school and celebrating National School Bus Safety Week, Oct. 19–23, provides an opportunity to raise awareness of how important safety is. This year’s theme is “Red Lights Mean STOP!”

Visit www.napt.org/nsbw for information.



2020 VOTER GUIDE

NYSUT's guide to union-endorsed candidates in the general election

NEW YORK

What's Your Plan To Vote?

OPTION 1

VOTE BY MAIL

Apply Online by Oct. 27
Ballot Postmarked by Nov. 3



OPTION 2

VOTE EARLY

Oct. 24 – Nov. 1



OPTION 3

VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

Nov. 3





NYSUT.org/Vote2020



OUR COUNT MATTERS IN THE 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

Visit www.my2020census.gov

ELT

Where NYSUT members learn from NYSUT members

NYSUT's Education & Learning Trust offers affordable seminars for School-Related Professionals, in both synchronous and asynchronous formats.

Site-based seminars are now being presented virtually on Zoom while online seminars are available on the Moodle platform. Registrants earn CTLE credit by taking ELT seminars.

Virtual seminars provide synchronous learning. This summer 31 SRPs participated in the latest round of "Train the Trainer" seminars and are ready to lead new virtual seminars.

Online seminars let SRPs learn asynchronously, at their own pace, within a 30-day window of their own choosing. Visit www.nysut.org/elt to view the current offerings and see how affordable professional learning can be.

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

Contest!

How did your local celebrate **New York State School-Related Professionals Recognition Day**?

Let us know how you celebrated and be entered to win a 2-for-1 entry to the 2021 SRP Leadership Conference Oct. 29-31, 2021 in Saratoga Springs.

Email a description of your event and photos, links to video, or other supporting documentation to NYSUT SRP Coordinator Leslie Fottrell at leslie.fottrell@nysut.org.

Deadline: Entries must be received by Dec. 9, 2020 to be entered in the contest.



PTSI booklet available for locals

Do you have school bus drivers, monitors or attendants in your local? The **2021 NYS Laws & Regs for School Bus Drivers, Monitors & Attendants** booklet is available now. 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.

To order, email Tammie Waldenmaier at tammie.waldenmaier@nysut.org.

Celebrate SRP Recognition Day Nov. 17 wherever you are

New York State School-Related Professionals Recognition Day, celebrated this year on Nov. 17, recognizes the importance of the NYSUT members who are an integral part of our students' educational experience. Whether this year's celebration is in person or virtual, we encourage you to celebrate.

"SRPs have been at the forefront of this pandemic, and they continue to make a difference by providing supports and services for the parents and children of their school communities during these very uncertain times," said NYSUT 2nd VP Ron Gross. "This year's theme 'SRPs Care for their Community,' builds off everything you do to support the educational community for which you serve."

SRP Recognition Day is the direct result of advocacy by NYSUT members.



NYSUT-backed legislation, made possible through the extensive lobbying by NYSUT staff and members, resulted in a permanent SRP Recognition Day in New York State. It is celebrated annually on the third Tuesday in November. This year, New York State SRP Recognition Day falls within American Education Week, Nov. 14–20, and many locals can use this opportunity to incorporate an SRP celebration into other events planned for the week.

Visit www.nysut.org/srpd for award-winning examples of ways to celebrate the SRPs in your local or district. You can download celebration materials to print on your own. NYSUT's SRP celebration packet is filled with celebration ideas, fliers, a

poster, contest information and you can order "SRPs Care for their Community" magnets. (There is no cost to locals, but supplies of the 4 x6" car magnets are limited.)

Local leaders may visit www.nysut.org/eReg/SRPREC2020 to order celebration packet materials and magnets for the SRPs in their locals.



Count on NYSUT Member Benefits—we're here for you

NYSUT Member Benefits understands the many struggles and challenges that NYSUT members – including our SRP population – and their families have faced this year. Now, more than ever, we are committed to helping you make prudent decisions when it comes to your financial and essential needs.

Member Benefits endorses crucial insurance, legal and financial programs to help protect your family members. These programs are not as expensive as you may think and there is no cost to inquire about them. We also offer a variety of shopping, travel and personal programs.

Below is a sampling of just a few of our endorsed offerings.

Legal Service Plan

Participants in this plan receive access to a national network of attorneys that handle personal legal matters; a free Legal Security Package consisting of a Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Power of Attorney; and two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

Voluntary Vision Plan

If you are looking for quality vision coverage for yourself or immediate family members, consider our endorsed **Vision Plan**. This plan provides one complete eye exam along with one pair of eyeglasses (lenses and frames) or contact lenses per benefit period, paid-in-full according to plan specifications.

Member Benefits Discounts & Deals

Member Benefits Discounts & Deals is a money-saving benefit available exclusively to NYSUT members featuring the nation's largest private discount network. Get started by registering your account with your NYSUT ID number at mbdeals.enjoymydeals.com.

You can then enjoy savings of up to 50% at more than 700,000 locations on shopping, restaurant dine-in and take-out, oil changes and vehicle maintenance, and more. One of the best features of this program is the ability to request that your favorite local business join the network.

Purchasing Power

The **Purchasing Power Member Shopping Program** is an online

shopping service that offers eligible NYSUT members the option to purchase brand-name products and pay for them over a 12-month period through payroll deduction or ACH withdrawals. Available products include computers, appliances, jewelry, furniture, televisions, travel packages and more.

Visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101 to learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs and services.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.



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

Visit: www.nysut.org/srp

