The Ken Kurzweil Social Justice Recognition Award
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We honor Ken Kurzweil by naming this award after him for his unparalleled experience, passion and years of service in supporting NYSUT’s social justice agenda throughout his distinguished career and into his retirement. As an educator, he impacted the lives of students, fellow educators and other community members. He demonstrated the ability to inspire, lead, organize and engage other educators, parents and the community to advocate on social justice issues. He has been an ambassador and advocate for social justice issues and a tireless champion of civil and human rights issues.

Check any activities that the Local/Chapter/Retiree Council or any of your members have done in the last year. You must check off or list at least FIVE activities to qualify.

Please print
Local/Chapter/Retiree Council ______________________________________________________

Contact person ________________________________________________________________

Contact person’s title ____________________________________________________________

Address ________________________________________________________________

City _______________________________ State _______________ ZIP _____________

Email ___________________________________________________________________

Phone ________________________________ Cell ______________________________

Please note: Very large locals like UFT or UUP must apply for recognition for INDIVIDUAL chapters.

Email completed forms to Paul Webster: pwebster@nysutmail.org
Mail to Paul Webster at NYSUT HQ, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110

Topics (check a minimum of one):

☐ Child Labor
☐ Conscious Purchasing and Fair Trade
☐ Domestic Abuse
☐ Educational Justice
☐ Hunger and Poverty
☐ Immigration Reform
☐ International Solidarity
☐ Labor Solidarity
☐ LGBTQIA Solidarity
☐ Racial Justice
☐ Support for Human Rights
☐ Wage Equity
☐ Women’s Issues, History and Rights
☐ Health Care
☐ Other
Check at least five activities that your Local/Chapter/Retiree Council participated in this year

CHILD LABOR
☐ Taught lessons or shown films about child labor beyond required curriculum
☐ Included information about child labor in union or school publications, websites or other means of communications
☐ Other (add activity) ____________________________________________________________

CONSCIOUS PURCHASING AND FAIR TRADE
☐ Served Fair Trade products at union events or in union offices
☐ Used Fair Trade lessons or curriculum in classes or with union members
☐ Attended or hosted a Fair Trade training or workshop
☐ Included a link to the Fair Trade Project or Fair Trade Facebook on the Local/Chapter website
☐ Included information about Fair Trade in Local/Chapter publications
☐ Gave Fair Trade products as gifts for special occasions (i.e., SRP Day)
☐ Became a Fair Trade school
☐ Promoted slave labor-free products
☐ Other (add activity) ____________________________________________________________

DOMESTIC ABUSE
☐ Volunteered at a local women’s shelter
☐ Collected diapers, baby food, toiletries, hygiene products, clothes for a women’s shelter
☐ Held workshops for members experiencing or who have experienced domestic violence
☐ Held teen domestic violence education forum
☐ Promoted activities related to domestic violence awareness month
☐ Other (add activity) ____________________________________________________________

EDUCATIONAL JUSTICE
☐ Hosted a forum
☐ Lobbied for full funding
☐ Promoted equitable resources
☐ Attended and/or organized a rally
Participated in a Day of Action or Walk-Ins for Public Education or Colleges
Hosted Student Debt Forum
Other (add activity) ____________________________

HUNGER AND POVERTY
Hosted a local food drive
Recruited volunteers for a local food bank/pantry
Organized support for a homeless shelter
Volunteered at a soup kitchen
Held an informational session at building-level meetings about hunger and poverty
Participated in the Poor People’s Campaign
Supported Poor People’s Campaign informational meeting; Labor-Religion Coalition events, including local, state and national meetings
Other (add activity) ____________________________

IMMIGRATION REFORM
Supported legislation — Dream Act and/or Immigration Reform
Lobbied your legislator(s) (emails, letters, calls, fax)
Attended a rally
Educated members and public
Held informational forum about the rights of undocumented children to public education
Developed a workshop to assist immigrants
Promoted events or materials on knowing your rights when facing Immigration and Customs Enforcement or shared information about ICE
Other (add activity) ____________________________

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY
Supported the struggle of the people of Yemen, Syria and other areas
Celebrated May 1 as International Workers Day
Educated students and members about Genocide, both historic and contemporary
Joined Amnesty International
Other (add activity) ____________________________
LABOR SOLIDARITY
☐ Supported National School-Related Professionals Day
☐ Supported Farmworker Fair Labor Practice Act
☐ Hosted a labor education program in your community, or Local/Chapter/Retiree Council
☐ Participated in solidarity action for workers in another state or country
☐ Participated in a Labor Day Parade
☐ Celebrated Workers’ Memorial Day on or around April 28
☐ Supported striking workers/solidarity actions
☐ Supported farmworkers
☐ Other (add activity) ___________________________________________________

LGBTQIA SOLIDARITY
☐ Implemented anti-bullying actions, education or programs
☐ Encouraged members of your local to take the NYSUT LGBTQIA Educator Task Force Survey
☐ Adopted a non-discrimination clause for your local union and district to consider
☐ Reached out to the NYSUT LGBTQIA Task Force and invited them to create an LGBTQIA Education and Awareness Campaign for your local or chapter
☐ Celebrated an LGBTQIA-related day of action or remembrance such as: International Day for Tolerance (November), Transgender Day of Remembrance (November), World AIDS Day (December), Human Rights Day (December), GLSEN Day of Silence (April), etc.
☐ Developed a LGBTQIA Gender and Sexualities Alliance (GSA)/Gay Lesbian Student Education Network (GLSEN)
☐ Other (add activity) ___________________________________________________

RACIAL JUSTICE
☐ Held a voter registration drive
☐ Conducted more than one ethnic history month celebration
☐ Used social media to promote racial justice issues
☐ Participated in awareness campaigns in a racial justice movement such as: NAACP, #BlackLivesMatter, Immigration, etc.
☐ Engaged the community in a collaborative racial justice movement
☐ Organized cultural awareness book clubs
☐ Held social justice film showing
Conducted community/classroom conversation
- Advocated for political/democratic rights
- Hosted voter registration drive
- Supported legislation to make voting easier
- Other (add activity) _____________________________________________

SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
- Implemented lessons from AFT Human Rights, NEA EdJustice, or curriculum from www.teachingtolerance.org
- Educated members and students about the rights of elders
- Advocated against elder abuse
- Encouraged students and members to become human rights defenders through education about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Observed December 10 as International Human Rights Day
- Encouraged school participation in Speak Truth to Power program and/or video contest
- Used social media to inform and educate others about social justice issues
- Educated and supported campaigns opposing human, sex and labor trafficking
- Established a Civil & Human Rights or Social Justice Committee
- Other (add activity) _____________________________________________

WAGE EQUITY
- Attended Fight for $15 rally
- Contacted legislators to support equal rights
- Promoted Equal Pay for Equal Work
- Attended Pickets or rally
- Other (add activity) _____________________________________________

WOMEN’S ISSUES, HISTORY AND RIGHTS
- Have educated members and students about women’s rights
- Sought out and/or supported a female candidate running for a political office
- Sought out and supported (monetary, physical items, etc.) a Women’s Support Group or Program to Stop Domestic Violence
- Participated in the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and/or took the Pledge to Eliminate Violence Against Women
Hosted a financial assistance information night for single parents (cost of living, college assistance, etc.)

Supported the Fight for $15 movement and linked it to women’s issues.

Hosted a movie night featuring a women’s issue/women’s history film and held a panel discussion

Developed a workshop that teaches young women how to be successful: interview skills, dressing for a job interview, how to be successful on the job, etc.

Developed a workshop to address sexual harassment at school, in the workplace and/or in the community

Created an internship program to develop leadership skills for young women

Created a link with a girls’ organization, such as Girl Scouts, to assist with the development of leadership skills

Supported Planned Parenthood by creating a letter-writing campaign to legislators addressing the need to continue fully funding the program

Established a Women’s Committee

Other (add activity) _____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

HEALTH CARE

Promoted Health care/Medicare Advocacy

Hosted a health care forum

Provided information on health care/medicare for members and community

Other (add activity) _____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

SUCCESS STORIES

Local victories of note, please feel free to attach additional pages, if needed

Other (add activity) _____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________

OTHER ACTIVITIES YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUBMIT
(Please be as specific as possible. Examples: Environmental Justice, Voter Education, Farm Workers)

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_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________
Andrew Pallotta, President
Jolene T. DiBrango, Executive Vice President
Paul Pecorale, Second Vice President
J. Philippe Abraham, Secretary-Treasurer

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