



“Using a democratic structure, SABEA supports student success and works toward improving the professional, economic, and personal lives of our members and families.”

Volume 3 Number 4 December 2015

SABEA: YOUR UNION’S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

3rd Week Rep Meetings Watch for information from your rep on a short meeting to give you minutes, updates and information

December 18 Social Committee Holiday party for all SABEA folks- past and present at Strike Zone in Saratoga at 3--- no charge

*January 13 SABEA Rep meeting at 3:30 pm- all are welcome and encouraged to attend
6:30- Gick Road Board of Education Meeting*

NOTE FROM PRESIDENT RUTH SHIPPEE:

“THEY DID, WE SHOULD, WE WILL”

Season Greetings!

Looking outside at the green grass, it doesn’t feel like winter in the Northeast. I am sure before we see spring flowers pushing up through the ground, we will all feel like we have had enough! (I am enjoying seeing the rogue pansies who are trying to extend summer in a few planters around my house. Encourages me to enjoy what we have and take a chance to do “the unusual.”)

Inside you will find some items where members, locally, at the state and national levels, have taken the chance and are able to say “I AM.” As more union members, in and out of the

education field recognize that being a part of the union supports you as a professional to do what you know is right, more people are openly stating their union pride. As more people recognize that your union helps you *before you* get into a bad situation and have to defend yourself, people are realizing the value of what a union does for them personally and for the community. Being a part of a union gives you a voice, helps protect and raise benefit packages, offer you assistance such as NYSUT's social services and member benefits. **Take action-** *wear maroon on Friday, become a part of a union committee, going to or creating a SABEA social event.*

Participate when we ask members for information. As we did when we began negotiations, we asked for your ideas and continue to use your responses as we work to develop the new contract. Be very glad that people "DID" and that we have the 1982 Triborough Amendment to the Taylor Law in place that keeps our benefits going during the negotiation periods. The negotiations team is working hard to bring you the best package.

We will be sending out a survey in January about conditions you are having in the workplace. It will be **VERY** important that we hear from all members, in and out of the classroom. During the 3rd week meetings, you will have an opportunity to complete and discuss the survey in January.

Another way you could contribute is applying to be our newsletter editor. Please send letter of interest to SABEA.NYSUT@gmail.com. The position will require gathering and soliciting materials to go in the newsletter, completing the 10 newsletters/year and submitting to the president by the end of the second week of the month. The position is budgeted to be paid \$250. Interested parties should send interest letter by December 31.

I hope you all have an opportunity to enjoy family and friends over the holidays.

In solidarity-

Ruth

sabea.nysut@gmail.com

EASY WAY TO SAY "I WILL":

OATH TO VOTE:

Still looking for a couple of more people to complete this. We will be beginning to lobby as the Legislature comes back into session in January. Please complete this pledge to vote in November 2016 based on information you have regarding how candidates handle issues on education.

Please complete and give to your rep. **This is one way "you can."** If you have not received one, please contact your rep.



*Keep these SABEA members in mind both for support and in joys!
Let Laura at sunshineclublaura@hotmail.com know about any life events: she would rather her multiple times than not recognize and reach out to people. This also includes information regarding our many retirees!*

November 2015 Sunshine Report
Sue Brooks: injured
John Buckley: father in law passed away
Karen Robinson: SAEC, Mother passed away

Looking to become informed? Come to a meeting with a rep the 3rd week of the month.

Reps will be holding meetings the 3rd week of the month for you to receive minutes, newsletter and other information and items to keep you up to date regarding your union. You will also hear about ways to be able to say “I will” get involved.

The following is the current schedule for these meetings:

SAEC: Thursday at 2:30, additional to be scheduled
(Reps are Lisa Colvin, Paul Crandall, Michele Morris and Owen Landrey)

Gick Road: Tuesday at 3:45
Rep TBA-very soon

Itinerants:

Thursdays @ 3:30 in SAEC E with Terry LaNoir

Myers: Thursday at 10:45- Paul Cerone, Wednesday at 2:45- Jane Amorosi and Mary Moyles and Monday at 2:45- Kim Weaver

SSTLC: Thursday at 2:30
Reps are *Julie Madison and Mike Dinsmore*

WSTLC, Burgoyne will meet at WSTLC 2:30 on Thursday
Reps are *Nancy VanVoast, Jackie Plude*

You do not have to attend at your site if another works better for you.

Some people at Myers showing their SABEA pride on a Friday!



SABEA Members: Bulletin Board

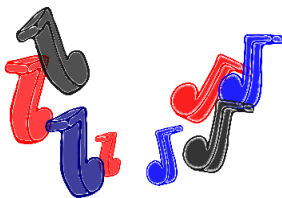
This new feature contains information about things members are doing. This may include items like bands they play in or plays they are a part of. Kicking off businesses could also be included. Send your information by the 2nd week of the month to SABEA.NYSUT@gmail.org to be included in the newsletter. Items will also be added to our FACEBOOK page so send in the information.

Paul Cerone and his classes held a Red Cross Blood Drive on December 4. Besides helping to get such a valuable resource for medical treatment, as we donate it helps to provide scholarships to our students. The Blood Drive collected 37 units- 6 more than the goal! We also had 21 first time donors. Thanks to all who participated and gave the gift of life.



Come hear from Joey Gero and his mom, Bev, as they play in their band, VIVID, on the following dates:

December 31 New Year's Eve party at Bentley's Tavern Malta



If you are thinking that “this is the year I will be retiring” (2016), please make sure you check with your retirement system (TRS or ERS) to understand what your conditions in retirement will be. **ONLY** they can compute what you will be receiving--- your union can help you get to the right place but we cannot advise you on your retirement.

For those who may want to take advantage of the contractual sick time buy out, **READ** your contract (Faculty Article 10-13 and SRP Article 18.9). You must notify the BOCES- Jim Dexter **before January 1** of your intent to retire. If you are considering, if eligible, working ESY, make sure the date you put as your date of retirement reflects when you will no longer be a member of the BOCES staff. Talk to your rep if you have questions for them to guide you to the *correct source* of information.

Sandi Carner-Shafran- Labor Ambassador

I just took the Working Women's survey!

It's no secret that women face unique obstacles balancing family and work. But the truth is that women are not some special interest group. We want the same thing all Americans want: fair pay and an economy that works for everyone.

Too often, politicians, the media and pop culture write the narrative about what working women want. It's time we speak for ourselves.

The AFL-CIO will use the anonymous responses we gather to publish a written report, bringing the voices of real working women to the table.

Take the Working Women's survey and let the world know what matters to women at work.

http://go.aflcio.org/womenssurvey?sp_ref=165746206.48.16533.e.0.2&source=sp_email

From Al Lubin- retired NYSUT officer:

We must take the effort to see through the eyes of those that have been shut out, attacked or ignored for no valid reason. If we can do that, we can begin to accept our obligation to open the doors and welcome all of those mentioned above, and others, into our conclaves with comfort, and to protect them from those individuals in our society that use race, religion and sexual orientation as a motive for terror.

We can begin to break down the barriers that our society has built and, hopefully, mitigate and eventually dissipate the rancor and hatred.

We can show those who live by a code of hatred that they are the ones who are different; that they are the ones destroying our society and our world; that they are the ones who should line the inside walls of our prisons.

Take a look around and decide whether or not your surroundings require more attention to the simple concept of diversity. Use it, as we did, to force your union, your workplace, your business, your corporation, to see what is and is not happening in your own circles.

Then accept your role to educate those around you until your organization or business understands your message and takes appropriate action. Speak up often in support of a diverse society. We cannot rely on those that pursue acceptance and equality full-time to be the only spokespersons demanding societal change. It is a responsibility that we all must share. We should all be seeking coalitions with other groups and individuals that can then rely on each other for support.

That's what the Civil Rights movement is all about, and don't let media fairy tales or the election of an African American president fool you into complacency; as recent events have shown, there is a lot left to accomplish.

Do it for yourself, your children and your grandchildren and for future generations. Make their world better by removing any walls of ignorance and hatred that they are being exposed to. Do not be nervous or shy about speaking out publically.

Debate and action, even if uncomfortable, is the only way to unlock the safe that guards these deep and dangerous prejudices.

We have had enough! Education and new laws can change the epidemic of hatred surrounding us. I hope you'll join us in demanding and initiating the changes necessary to make it clear that racism has no place in America.

Alan Lubin is a retired NYSUT officer. His commentary first appeared in "The Labor Press."



800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110-2455 ■ (518) 213-6000 ■ www.nysut.org

Karen E. Magee, *President*
Andrew Pallotta, *Executive Vice President*
Catalina R. Fortino, *Vice President*
Paul Pecorale, *Vice President*
Martin Messner, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Dear NYSUT member,

Today we celebrate a significant breakthrough in public education.

Thanks to the dedicated, non-stop activism of NYSUT members in solidarity with parents, the era of test-and-punish is on its way out!

We are proud to share with you this week's [major developments](#) that open the door for a much-needed transformation in public education.

In a [just-released report](#), the state's Common Core Task Force -- appointed by the governor -- is calling for:

- Empowering New York State teachers to create developmentally appropriate New York State standards for New York State students;
- Immediately reducing the time allotted to state tests, and making future reductions in both test duration and the number of testing days;
- Modifying the new state standards and tests for our students with disabilities and English language learners, and eliminating double testing for our English language learners; and
- Banning for a minimum of four years the use of state test scores in teacher evaluations.

In contrast to the state's failed implementation of the Common Core, the task force calls for the new standards and curriculum resources to be developed and implemented gradually -- with educator involvement every step of the way, and full transparency to parents.

The state Board of Regents is expected to vote in January on these recommendations, which would then immediately take effect.

Meanwhile, after tireless advocacy by AFT and NEA, [President Obama signed legislation yesterday](#) that bars the federal government from mandating the use of student test scores to evaluate teachers.

These changes -- vital to end the high-stakes pressure that has eroded the joy of teaching and learning -- are the direct result of the dedicated activism of NYSUT members and parents.

THANK YOU for everything you have done: the rallies, forums, testimony, letters, e-blasts, protests and more. Your union called, and **you answered**.

We are grateful to each and every member, parent and activist whose passion and dedication on behalf of students has brought us to this moment. A sea change is underway in public education, both here in New York State and at the federal level. This is an amazing achievement -- and it is a shared achievement.

But make no mistake: **We are not done.**

Now we must redouble our efforts to ensure these and other necessary and transformative changes are realized in every classroom across New York State.

As we press forward on all the vital priorities that remain, we are inspired by this belief:

Together, we can move mountains.

In solidarity:



Karen E. Magee
President



Andrew Pallotta
Executive Vice President



Catalina R. Fortino
Vice President



Paul Pecorale
Vice President



Martin Messner
Secretary-Treasurer

P.S. This letter comes in place of our regular weekly briefing, which resumes Monday. Let your colleagues know: Any NYSUT member can receive weekly email briefings by [logging on to NYSUT.org](http://tinyurl.com/ovvtzgk).

Conference and Workshops from CDRO (Capital District Regional Office) of NYSUT: All NYSUT members are encouraged to go to the NYSUT website and log in to find various workshops, trainings and information.

December 14, 2015, Monday, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

21st Century Skills for Teachers

NYSUT HQ

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ovvtzgk>

December 16, 2015, Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Dealing with Difficult Students in the School Environment – Violence Prevention

NYSUT HQ

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ovvtzgk>

December 17, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

SALT Meeting (Southern Adirondack League of Teachers)

Pizzeria Uno, Queensbury

Contact: Tammy Boire tboireot@gmail.com

2016

January 5, 2016, Tuesday, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Supporting Students with Autism

NYSUT HQ

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ovvtzgk>

January 7, 2016, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

New Member Workshop and Dinner

NYSUT HQ

Register at <http://www.cvent.com/d/6fq8d8>

January 12, 2016, 4:15 p.m.

Suburban Council Negotiators

NYSUT HQ CDRO Conference Room

Contact: David Rounds, bctaunited@gmail.com

January 13, 2016, Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Differentiating Instruction: Connecting with All Learners

NYSUT HQ

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ovvtzgk>

January 14, 2016, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

New Member Workshop and Dinner

Raindancer Restaurant, Amsterdam

Register at <http://www.cvent.com/d/6fq8d8>

January 20, 2016, Wednesday, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Understanding the Role of Formative Assessment

NYSUT HQ

Register at <http://tinyurl.com/ovvtzgk>

January 21, 2016, 6:30 p.m.

SALT Meeting (Southern Adirondack League of Teachers)

Pizzeria Uno, Queensbury

Contact: Tammy Boire tboireot@gmail.com

January 21, 2016, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

New Member Workshop and Dinner

Fort William Henry, Lake George

Register at <http://www.cvent.com/d/6fq8d8>

January 25, 2016, 6:00 p.m.

ED #10 Meeting (All Welcome)

NYSUT Headquarters

Contact: Tony McCann, amccanned10@yahoo.com

From SABEA's National Affiliate: AFT (American Federation of Teachers)

COMMON CORE IMPLEMENTATION CHANGES COMING TO NY

The final report from New York State's Common Core task force reflects the concerns that parents and educators have long had about the standards, says AFT President Randi Weingarten, who served on the task force. "For years, parents and educators have been raising the red flag about the botched implementation of the Common Core in New York," she says. "This report lays out what needs to be done to re-create trust in New York state public schools. It starts with high standards, but standards that—while ensuring students are learning what they need to know and do in the 21st century—are appropriate for students of all ages, abilities and language proficiencies. We need better, shorter tests that are created with educators and aligned to curriculum. We need proper training for educators and more time to develop better curriculum. And we need educators to be involved and parents engaged at every step of the way."

- [Read more about what the report says.](#)
- [Read the full report.](#)



Update on Group Legal Plan benefit for SABEA members:

It was recently announced that SABEA is taking advantage of the group legal plan through NYSUT member benefits. You should have received, at home, a letter in early November from member benefits with your ID card and information regarding the plan.

On December 1 & 2 around 60 members took advantage of meeting with John C and taking that step into legal personal planning.

Are you saying “oops- I meant to do this?” No problem for our active members. Just contact your rep for the form(s) and call the 800 number in it, complete the questionnaire and mail in. Also, go to Member Benefits page of NYSUT.org for more information on what this group plan that SABEA is participating in will provide you. A brief summary are:

*Additional Services Offered at **No Charge**:*

- 1. Telephone advice & consultation with an attorney**
- 2. Two, free, hour-long office consultations with a National Legal Office attorney or local referral attorney**
- 3. Legal letters written & phone calls made on your behalf**
- 4. Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters**
- 5. Discounts for uncontested estates -- probate**
- 6. Nationwide referral attorney network**
- 7. Legal Security Package that includes a Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will, and Power of Attorney**
- 8. Guaranteed hourly rates**
- 9. Advice on identity theft prevention and for identity theft victims**
- 10. Assistance with debt consolidation**
- 11. Assistance with mortgage foreclosure**
- 12. Discounts for personal injury cases**
- 13. Document preparation at fixed rates**
- 14. *Preventive Law Guide* newsletter (published three times per year)**
- 15. Optional Riders for Elder Law & Business Protection**

Please stay tuned and take advantage of this valuable service.

Not sure who to contact regarding issues:

Contracts are available on the BOCES website under Staff Resources- both Faculty and SRP

Reps are:

WSTLC & Burgoyne Ave:

Nancy VanVoast 496-5958 nvsquare@gmail.com , Jackie Plude 791-3702
marmiep09@yahoo.com

SSTLC: Mike Dinsmore 683-8712 md1092@yhao.com ,
Julie Madison 798-8886 tjmmadison@yahoo.com

Myers: Paul Cerone 583-9935 pcerone@gmail.com, Jane Amorosi 355-8576
janie64@nycap.rr.com,

Mary Moyles 322-1273 shamrocks2@aol.com,
Kim Weaver 884-8153 kweav60@gmail.com

Gick Road: TBA

Itinerants: Terry LaNoir 796-3154 tflanoir@gmail.com

SAEC: Owen Landrey 914-772-7669 owenlandrey@gmail.com,
Michele Morris 321-4552 mmorrisunion@gmail.com,
Lisa Colvin 260-9994 colv77@yahoo.com, Paul Crandall

Retiree: Stephanie Pischel 355-0360 spischel@netzero.net

Our union represents BOCES staff: *both support and teachers*. The mission of SABEA is to assist in educating our diverse student population while fostering a safe, supportive and professional work environment.

Your representative is your “go-to” person for assistance with concerns and workplace issues. The Representatives meet on the **second Wednesday** of the month at **3:30** in various locations.

All SABEA members are invited to attend and participate at these meetings.

Representative Meeting Dates & Locations (begin at 3:30)

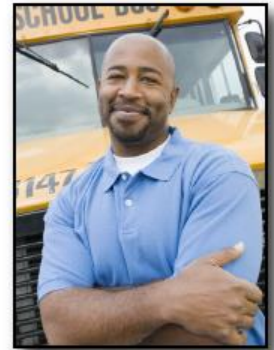
<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
• January 13	Myers- Science lab
• February 10	SAEC-B-7
• March 9	Myers- Science lab

The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.



Are you ready to answer these questions?

What would happen if you suddenly died? Have you ever considered what would happen to your spouse and/or children? Take a few moments and answer these questions now:

- 1) Would your loved ones be able to afford their current home?*
- 2) Could your loved ones continue to pay regular bills and maintain their medical coverage?*
- 3) Would your loved ones be able to plan for your final funeral expenses?*

If your answer to the above questions is “No” or “I don’t know,” consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Term Life or Level Term Life Insurance Plans. Both of these plans allow you to select the plan and benefit amount that best meets your specific needs.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific details about these plans.

The Issuance of a Certificate of Insurance or payment of benefits will depend upon the answers given in the application and the truthfulness of those answers. Additional underwriting requirements may be needed.

Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement with its endorsed insurance provider of 7.61% of earned premiums for these programs. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. The Insurer pools the premiums of Member Benefits participants who are insured for the purposes of determining premium rates and accounting. Coverage outside of these plans may have rates and terms that are not the same as those obtainable through Member Benefits. The Insurer or Member Benefits may hold premium reserves that may be used to offset rate increases and/or fund such other expenses related to the plan as determined appropriate by Member Benefits. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.