



*“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 3 November 2015**

**SABEA: YOUR UNION’S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:**

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

*November 18 SABEA rep meeting & BOE meeting in North Warren*

*December 1 & 2 Will Days at SAEC & Myers: Round 1*

*December 9 3:30 pm SABEA Rep Meeting at SAEC and Board of Education meeting at Gick Road*

**NOTE FROM PRESIDENT RUTH SHIPPEE:**

***“THEY DID, WE SHOULD, WE WILL”***

*Recent events across the world, especially in Paris and the Middle East help us to recognize how fortunate we are to live in the United States. The forces behind the atrocities in those areas and around the world can only be successful if people like you and me allow them to be. We need to be sure to stand up for just treatment of all people regardless of their beliefs, cultures, genders, sexual orientation, socio-economic status or other “categories” that are used to divide us.*

*We are fortunate that we have the right to speak out in support of treating ourselves and others well. We are fortunate that we are able to speak up when we see injustice or mistreatment in the world, our region, our community or in our work place.*

*In this month of reflecting on what we have been given and accomplished at Thanksgiving; please take time to reflect on what your union, SABEA, has helped to create for you. You have a work place that has guidelines on how you should be treated and respected for the work you accomplish. You have a benefit package that many would appreciate. You have systems in place to help guide issues that may arise at work. You have connections to state, national and international labor to help speak to our law makers on the issues that we that work in the public education workforce feel are important. We have opportunities such as the group legal service plan that is being implemented by SABEA to broaden our benefits. We have opportunities to improve ourselves through NYSUT.org/ELT that provides training opportunities for SRP and faculty staff.*

***That leads me back to:*** *what are you doing to support and grow your union?* *How do you demonstrate that you understand of what SABEA and NYSUT and AFT and AFL/CIO provide and do are important? A few simple ways are to wear maroon or SABEA apparel on Fridays. Do community service in a SABEA shirt. Visit the NYSUT or SABEA website or FACEBOOK pages. Attend your rep's monthly meetings and/or the monthly rep meeting. Be able to say: "I know they did, I recognized I should, and....I am making a difference in the life of my union."*

*I hope you have a joyful Thanksgiving filled with great food, friends and family.*

In solidarity-

*Ruth*

[sabea.nysut@gmail.com](mailto:sabea.nysut@gmail.com)



A note from American Cancer Society to SABEA Making Strides Team Captain:

*Thank you, Karen for joining with 15,000 walkers and helping to raise \$770,000 for Making Strides of Albany. You are a leader in helping to finish the fight against breast cancer.*

*"Where would we be without the funding raised through Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walks," asks Leslie Jones, a breast cancer survivor since 2011. "The movement is necessary to finish the fight, and I am eternally grateful that I am able to participate."*

*When you raise funds and join our community to help finish the fight, you help create a meaningful experience for breast cancer survivors like Leslie and all those whose lives have been touched by this disease. Thank you!*

*While the event has passed, there is still an opportunity to continue the fight. It's not too late to show you are committed to ending this disease. **If you have not yet, make a personal donation to support your fundraising efforts.** Remember that others will follow your example if you make a donation to yourself.*

Any remaining donations or matching gift forms may be sent to your American Cancer Society office:

ATTN: Making Strides of Albany

1 Penny Ln

Latham, NY 12110

Thanks again for supporting Making Strides of Albany and for helping to finish the fight against breast cancer.

## Fall Special Olympics October 16-18 Queensbury





**SABEA Members who attended Education, Inc. showing at Charles Wood Theater in Glens Falls. More viewings will be held—an hour well spent on why our education system has been allowed to be high jacked by those not interested in our students and our collective future.**



### **News from NYSUT:**

Please consider this workshop on Disability Awareness scheduled for November 30th. The cost is \$10 per person and details are in the attached link. Sign up at the link below. Other workshops for SRP and faculty can be found at [NYSUT.org/ELT](https://www.nysut.org/ELT). Includes professional development and college courses.

<https://www.mylearningplan.com/webreg/catalog.asp?H=1&D=15191>

### **Support for unions floods SCOTUS in advance of Friedrichs case**

The NEA, AFT, the AFL-CIO and dozens of states and municipalities filed amicus briefs to support in the Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association case before the U.S. Supreme Court. The case threatens to make it harder for working people to join together and speak out together. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, and NYC Mayor Bill DeBlasio filed amicus briefs, too. **Common Core Task Force talks about building teacher leadership opportunities**

The governor's Common Core Task Force, which includes NYSUT Vice President Catalina Fortino, met this week at Daemen College to hear from five experts who spoke out on the need for stronger professional development and teacher leadership opportunities. Panelists included 2014 New York State Teacher of the Year Ashli Skura Dreher (at right), a special education teacher in the Lewiston-Porter district; and Fenice Boyd, an associate professor and UUP member from SUNY Buffalo.



The task force is slated to conclude its work and issue recommendations by the end of December. To submit comments to the task force, [go here](#) through Nov. 30.

Meanwhile, the New York State Council of School Superintendents this week [released a survey](#) showing 70 percent of superintendents polled said that [state standardized test results should not be used in teacher evaluations](#).

### 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.



## September 2015 Sunshine Report

Laura Rychcik, Myers: Ill

Donna Ohlsen, Myers: Surgery

Chris Ogden, Myers: Surgery

Laurel Ellithorpe: Grandmother Passed Away

Lynn Tusa: Sister Passed Away

Donna Rhone (Retiree): Husband Passed Away

## October 2015 Sunshine Report

Bonnie O'Rourke, Mother in law passed away

Michelle Maddalla, Myers: Car accident

Kathy Hubbell, Myers: Surgery

Dan Thivierge, Myers: Extended illness

*Keep these SABEA members in mind both for support and in joys!  
Let Laura at [sunshineclublaura@hotmail.com](mailto: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! Let us know events over the summer too!*

### **Looking to become informed? Come to a meeting with a rep the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the month.**

Reps will be holding meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, TBA, Michele Morris and Owen Landrey)

**Gick Road:** Tuesday at 3:45  
Rep TBA

#### **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.



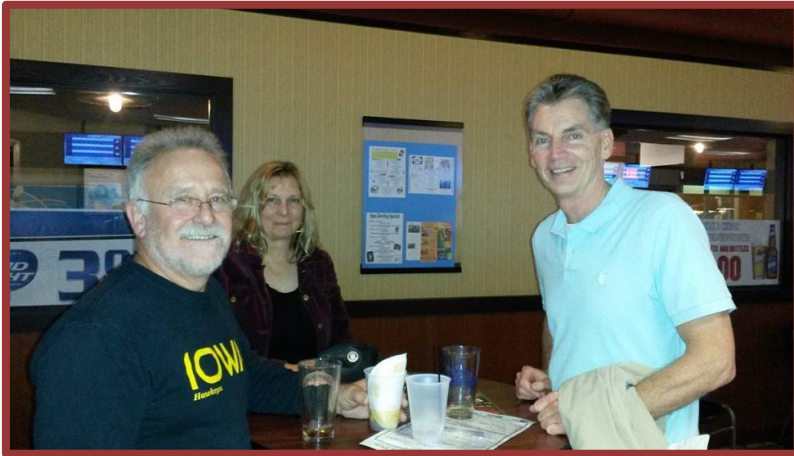




## **Sixth Annual BOCES Bowling Challenge: North vs. South**

**When:** Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm  
**Where:** Saratoga Strike Zone in Saratoga







Information from our national affiliate, AFT: Go to [AFT.org](http://AFT.org) to see more articles on what is happening in your national affiliate.

**FRIEDRICHS v. CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION**

A bad decision from the U.S. Supreme Court could limit working people's ability to negotiate better wages, benefits and working conditions.

Higher wages. Better benefits. Workplace safety.

Union workers earn \$207 more per week than nonunion workers.

Unions make communities stronger by advocating for smaller class sizes for our children and better patient-to-staff ratios in our hospitals.

So what is this case really about?

Greedy CEOs and wealthy special interest groups want to manipulate economic rules in their favor and make it even harder for our public servants—our teachers, firefighters and nurses—to speak up together and fight for what's good for our families.

**AMERICA'S ECONOMY IS ALREADY OUT OF BALANCE. A BAD DECISION HERE WILL MAKE IT WORSE.**

#WorkTogether

## **FRIEDRICHS IS ABOUT DESTROYING WORKERS' RIGHTS**

With the U.S. Supreme Court set to hear oral arguments early next year in the important *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association* case, a coalition of unions and our allies fighting to protect workers' rights wants to make this central point clear: The case is, plain and simple, an attack on working people's freedom to come together and form unions, whether it's teachers, nurses, first responders or other people who are vital to our communities. [This graphic](#) from America Works Together shows a basic overview. More than 16,000 people have signed a petition, written by AFT member and California college instructor Lacy Barnes, declaring that they will stand together to stop attacks on working people by groups like the Center for Individual Rights, which is behind the *Friedrichs* case.

- [Add your name to the petition.](#)

## SABEA Members: Bulletin Board

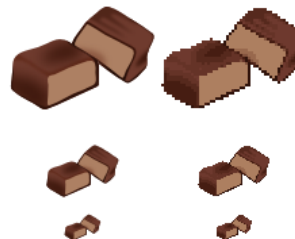
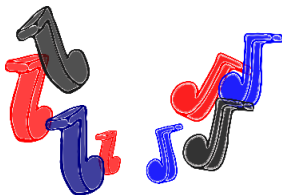
This new feature contains information about things members are doing. This may include items like bands they play in or plays they are a part of. Kicking off businesses could also be included. Send your information by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the month to [SABEA.NYSUT@gmail.org](mailto:SABEA.NYSUT@gmail.org) 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 will be hosting 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.



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

<i>November 20</i>	<i>Bentley's Tavern- Malta 9-12</i>
<i>November 28</i>	<i>Cantina in Saratoga Springs 9-12</i>
<i>December 12</i>	<i>Cantina in Saratoga Springs 9-12</i>
<i>December 21</i>	<i>New Year's Eve party at Bentley's Tavern Malta</i>



### Andrea Carroll reports on her new venture: Life by Chocolate-

I wanted to let you know that my chocolates are now for sale at Four Seasons in Saratoga. Ask for Life by Chocolate-Chocolate Delights. I just completed the fall farmers' market in Cambridge and my chocolates are also for sale at the Cambridge Coop and the Round House Café in Cambridge. Our plan is to have the product for sale at the Healthy Living Market in Saratoga and Honest Weight (Coop in Albany) soon!

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.



## Officer Reports:

Sandie Carner-Shafran  
SABEA Labor Ambassador & NYSTRS WSWHE BOCES Delegate

I recently attended the NYSTRS Delegate Convention and want to share the following important check list. Please be very careful of dates when submitting your paperwork to the BOCES & the NYSTRS Retirement Form. Attend the free seminars, and speak with a NYSTRS Consultant. Albany Fall Dates are November 18, 2015 and December 10, 2015.

## *For Those Planning to Retire Soon*

1

Attend a PREP Seminar.

These free seminars, offered year-round and open to all, cover NYSTRS benefits, financial planning, Social Security, estate planning and more. MyNYSTRS account holders can make reservations online. All others call (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6180.

2

Schedule a Consultation.

Meet with a NYSTRS representative, in person or by live video, to discuss your retirement questions. Run estimates for different retirement dates and discuss the various payment options available to you. Book an appointment through MyNYSTRS or call (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6100.

3

Understand Your Payment Options Before Choosing.

Members who select the wrong payment option often face difficult financial and emotional challenges later. Avoid this mistake at all costs! Read our pamphlet *Maximum or an Option: Choosing a Benefit Payment Right for You*, available in the Library at NYSTRS.org.

4

Apply for Retirement With NYSTRS.

Retiring from your employer does NOT automatically trigger retirement benefit payments. You must also file an *Application for Retirement (RET-54)* with the Retirement System in order to receive your monthly pension payment.

5

Know When to File Your Retirement Application.

File too early (more than 90 days before your official date of retirement) and the application will not be valid. File on your date of retirement if you wish, but make sure your date of retirement is at least one day after your contract with your employer expires. File before June 10 if you want to receive your first payment in July.

6

Remember: You Have a Limited Window for Withdrawing or Changing the Terms of Your Retirement.

From your date of retirement you have 14 days to withdraw your retirement application and 30 days to change your benefit payment option. NYSTRS must receive the paperwork no later than day 14 or 30. State law does not allow for exceptions.

Questions? Speak with a NYSTRS representative by calling (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6250.



# Announcing another benefit for SABEA members: active and retired

It was recently announced that SABEA is taking advantage of the group legal plan through NYSUT member benefits. For each member, each year we have this plan you will get: *Health Care Proxy, Power of Attorney, Living Will* and draft or update a *Simple Will*. Your spouse/significant other will receive: *Reciprocal Simple Will, Health Care Proxy and Living Will*.

You should have received, at home, a letter in early November from member benefits with your ID card and information regarding the plan such as the above and other benefits like a couple of hours of consultation time.

We will hold Will Days on December 1 & 2—we have had a great response. Those people who have signed up will be hearing in the next few days when their appointments are- remember it was first come, first serve. They will be bringing completed questionnaires for the lawyer who will take that and copies of older documents that you may have and create your new wills. Signing days will be scheduled soon.

Additional Will Days will be scheduled for those who missed this round.

Please stay tuned and take advantage of this valuable service.

A NUMBER OF OUR SRP'S  
TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE  
CDRO (CAPITAL DISTRICT  
REGIONAL OFFICE) SRP  
DINNER AT THE DESMOND ON





Watch for upcoming information regarding a SRP Conference in Cooperstown—great opportunity to learn more about your profession and what others around the state are doing. (At no cost to you as an individual)

## 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](mailto:nvsquare@gmail.com) , Jackie Plude 791-3702  
[marmiep09@yahoo.com](mailto:marmiep09@yahoo.com)

SSTLC: Mike Dinsmore 683-8712 [md1092@yhao.com](mailto:md1092@yhao.com) ,  
Julie Madison 798-8886 [tjmmadison@yahoo.com](mailto:tjmmadison@yahoo.com)

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

Mary Moyles 322-1273 [shamrocks2@aol.com](mailto:shamrocks2@aol.com),  
Kim Weaver 884-8153 [kweav60@gmail.com](mailto:kweav60@gmail.com)

Gick Road: TBA

Itinerants: Terry LaNoir 796-3154 [tflanoir@gmail.com](mailto:tflanoir@gmail.com)

SAEC: Owen Landrey 914-772-7669 [owenlandrey@gmail.com](mailto:owenlandrey@gmail.com),  
Michele Morris 321-4552 [mmorrisunion@gmail.com](mailto:mmorrisunion@gmail.com),  
Lisa Colvin 260-9994 [colv77@yahoo.com](mailto:colv77@yahoo.com), TBA

Retiree: Stephanie Pischel 355-0360 [spischel@netzero.net](mailto: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>
• December 9	SAEC-B-7
• January 13	Myers- Science lab
• February 10	SAEC-B-7
• March 9	Myers- Science lab

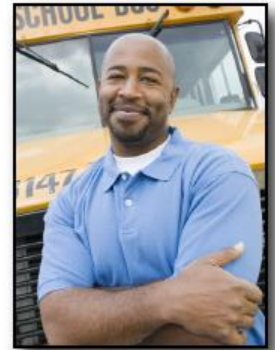


# The Value of NYSUT Membership

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](http://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.