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NOTE FROM PRESIDENT RUTH SHIPPEE:

"THEY DID, WE SHOULD, WE WILL"

*Stepping up and
Making a difference*

We live in interesting times. Our weather seems to be like many other aspects in our lives right now with many unusual twists and changes. (I have to say I appreciate not having had a killing frost yet.)

SABEA members, active and retired, have been stepping up and making a difference. We have two teams that will be participating in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. **SABEA Walkers** will be at the Albany event on October 15- donate to them. Or join **Sanford Street Crusaders** at the Cool Civic Center in Glens Falls on October 29. So many of our lives have been touched by cancer- let's work to wipe it out.

SABEA has also continued to donate time at the Open Door Soup kitchen. We have signed up to serve on October 30 and November 13, 4:15-5:45 pm. Please contact Jo James if you and a couple of friends would like to participate.

Our members also donated well over **\$900** towards the various hurricane victims through NYSUT's Disaster Relief fund.

Your reps are also busy at work. They participated in a training from NYSUT that they will be contacting you about soon. Please give them a minute to talk.

In the next few weeks, you will be hearing a great deal about the required vote in New York State regarding whether we should have a Constitutional Convention. Please become informed on why this expensive proposition will not help New York. Then, go vote and make sure to turn the ballot over and vote 'NO' on holding a Constitutional Convention.

Thank you to all who voiced their suggestions for negotiations and volunteered to be a part of the team. We will be beginning our work next week to bring a solid contract proposal to our members.

Union Strong- SABEA Strong

Ruth
SABEA President



ON NOVEMBER 7

VOTE NO
ON THE
CONSTITUTIONAL
CONVENTION





Teaching can be an isolating job. It's often a career where we all disappear into our own rooms and are given few opportunities to enjoy the bonding of collaboration that is a daily part of so many other careers.

With this job, there also comes a great deal of scrutiny. Some days it feels like we're spending most of our time dealing with the latest educational acronym rather than improving lessons to better serve our students.

But here's the thing—we have to support one another. All too often, I see teachers criticizing or being negative to one another instead of offering teacher support. So let's all take a few moments to use that energy we give to our students each day and share it. Let's spread a little love around through teacher support and see if we can't just raise morale a few points.

Let's stop blaming the teachers who came before us.

It's easy to do—blame last year's teachers or those who moved on to other jobs— for the deficits our students may have. We all do it. Senior teachers blame everyone from junior year back to ninth grade. They pass it down to junior high teachers, and down it goes. We need to remember that each teacher from Pre-K to post-secondary is trying.

Contrary to some public sentiment, nobody stays with this job to have summers off. They stay because they want to teach. Let's all give each other the benefit of the doubt, meet our students where they are, and try to help.

Let's start using social media for good.

I have written before about teachers' use of social media before, but this is an even more important lesson. We have to stop posting on social media about how much of a headache grading papers is, or worse, about personal frustrations with a student. Sure we all have bad days that we need to vent about, but the power of sharing positive stories is so much better than the negative ones. Celebrate a great lesson, talk about being excited to teach a certain unit, and create positive stories about those great moments of being a teacher.

Let's pay it forward.

Our school store sells coffee for one dollar. It is the best deal around. They have a remarkable selection of Keurig cups, so everyone can tailor their daily coffee to their own personal tastes. I am not sure I can explain the power of buying someone else's coffee. It is something most teachers really rely on; it's something they enjoy; and it's cheap. For one dollar, or whatever your school or local coffee shop



charges, you can say a lot to a colleague. Hang in there. I respect what you do. Screw administration. It get's better. I really enjoy having you as a colleague. Whatever. Buy that coffee for a fellow teacher.

Let's collaborate more.

This may be the most challenging, because it requires holding off on grading that set of essays, cleaning the paste off of the desks, or even opening your prep period for helping students. But sometimes we just need to leave our classrooms in search of our peers. This has been a personal goal of mine, and so far this year, I have sought out advice on "partner essays," lifted weights with a gym teacher while discussing writing across the curriculum, spoken a bit of Italian, and mooched some artwork for my classroom. Each of those examples has offered me another colleague with whom I can share a smile.

Let's pass along good things we hear from students.

Students often share praise indirectly. "I loved that class," they will say in passing when another subject or teacher is mentioned. Just the other day, a student in my class confided to some other students that his chemistry class was the first time he got excited about learning. It took a

few minutes for me to track his chemistry teacher down after school, but he lit up when I told him. Those moments are too good to miss.

Let's hear it for us!

We root for sports teams. We cheer for our children, for outcomes of elections, for personal accomplishments, for weight loss, and new homes, and births, and raises, and silly games. Let's cheer for each other now and then, in whatever form suits us best. Let's show the world, and more importantly each other, just how awesome the teachers of this country are.

Source: www.weareteachers.com
by: Jeremy Knoll



SUNY Charter Schools Committee sells out charter students

Source: NYSUT Media Relations



ALBANY, N.Y. Oct. 11, 2017 — New York State United Teachers today said amended regulations adopted by the SUNY Charter Schools Committee violate the law and would allow unqualified teachers to work in their charter schools.

NYSUT President Andy Pallotta said, “The committee can amend this bad proposal until the cows come home, but it doesn’t change the fact that these regulations sell out the state’s most vulnerable children to score political points.”

Background on amended SUNY Charter Schools Committee regulations

The new charter proposal increases the number of required instructional hours for teachers who go through the charter school program from 30 hours to 160 hours — from roughly one week to one month. However, it continues to allow charters to have unqualified teacher preparation instructors deliver the program.

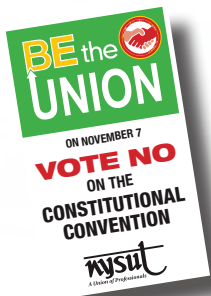
The amended regulations decrease teacher candidate field experience from 100 hours to 40 hours. It also reduces requirements for charter school “certification” for ESOL and special education from 75 hours to 40 hours. Like the initial proposal, it does not require a student teaching clinical experience supervised by a qualified teacher in a setting outside of the charter school providing “instruction.”

The new proposal refers to teacher preparation programs requiring applicants to complete “a master’s degree in education or bachelor’s degree or higher in any subject area from an accredited institution....”

However, this reference is followed by “or shall have been found to have the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully complete the program as determined by the institute.” This means that a bachelor’s or master’s degree is not required and that the institute itself would decide who is allowed to teach, with no actual required criteria.

In its list of criteria for instructors for its teacher preparation program, a requirement for classroom teaching experience; bachelor’s degree; and certification as a school administrator appears reasonable. However, an “out” clause states that instructors could be individuals who “have the expertise, advanced study, or licensure appropriate to the field” to teach a course effectively, with such eligibility “subject to prior approval by the institute.” The Charter Schools Committee is attempting to set up an internal system with no required external standards or assessment.

The new proposal refers to one of the three required state teacher certification examinations. Assessment of their teacher candidates “may be either the state teacher certification examination, Educating All Students (“EAS”) test; or an examination that measures, at a minimum, all required elements of the EAS test, and is approved by the Institute.” This means their teacher certification candidates really don’t have to take even that one state certification exam.



New York State CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION Detrimental for Labor **VOTE NO!**

We need your help! Help us make phone calls to NYSUT members regarding the Constitutional Convention referendum on the election ballot this November. Come for the entire time, or give us just an hour of your time!

Phone Bank Dates:

October 11 from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm at
NYSUT Syracuse Regional Office
4983 Brittonfield Parkway, East Syracuse
Shelly hosting

October 16 from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm at NSEA
210 South Main St. North Syracuse
Phil hosting

October 23 from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm at
NYSUT Syracuse Regional Office
4983 Brittonfield Parkway, East Syracuse
Shelly hosting

October 30 from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm at
NYSUT Syracuse Regional Office
4983 Brittonfield Parkway, East Syracuse
Shelly and Phil hosting (OCTA meeting at 4:30)

November 6 from 3:30 pm-6:00 pm at
NSEA
210 South Main St. North Syracuse
Phil and Shelly hosting

To let us know which date you can make. Please contact:

Shelly Chizzonite, schizzonite@yahoo.com,
315-416- 5900

Phil Cleary, PCleary@nscds.org, 315-727- 7445

Friday marks voter registration deadline for general election

Friday is the deadline to register to vote in this year's general election — and also to change a political party enrollment for those seeking to vote in a specific primary next year.

Voting was described as slow but steady at Guilderland Elementary School on Tuesday, the day that voters around the state headed to the polls to vote on their school district's budget and picks for school board. (Skip Dickstein / Times Union)

The cutoff marks the statutory registration deadline of 25 days before an election, and also is the final day an eligible voter can drop off, fill out online or postmark a voter registration application. Any mailed materials must be received at a board of elections by **Oct. 18**, when any voter address changes also must be received.

Under an executive order signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo this year, voters may register through any state agency as well.

Voter registration forms are available on the state Board of Elections website, and online registrations can be submitted through the the state Department Motor Vehicles' MyDMV online portal.

Voters can verify their registration status online through the state Board of Elections website.

Friday's deadline also is the annual 25-day pre-general election deadline for currently registered voters to change their party enrollment status. After that day, voters registered with a certain party won't be able to vote in federal or state primaries for another party in 2018, regardless of whether they change their affiliation before those elections. New York has a closed primary system, meaning that, for example, only registered Democrats can vote in Democratic primaries.

Source: www.timesunion.com

Teachers union sues over new training rules

Action comes a day after SUNY board approved changes for charters

ALBANY — The New York State United Teachers union and its largest local affiliate, the United Federation of Teachers, on Thursday announced the filing of a lawsuit to block the SUNY Charter Schools Committee from implementing new teacher-training regulations for charter schools.

In a statement, NYSUT called the regulation changes, which were approved Wednesday by the SUNY committee, “illegal” and said they would “undermine the teaching profession by allowing unqualified teachers to work in SUNY-authorized charter schools.”

Charters — publicly funded, privately run schools — say they’re hurt by the state’s stringent teacher certification process and supporters argue some schools should be exempt based on their proven record of student achievement.

But outside groups, including the state’s own Education Department and Board of Regents, say the move will lower standards and allow “inexperienced and unqualified” people to teach children who are most in need, including students of color, and poor and disabled students.



The suit, filed in state Supreme Court in Manhattan, charges that the SUNY Charter Schools Committee exceeded its legal authority and usurped the role of the state Legislature.

READ THE COURT DOCUMENTS [HERE](#).

“These illegal regulations tell the people that New York State cares more about nail salon customers than children in charter schools,” NYSUT President Andy Pallotta said in the union’s statement. “How can New York State demand that manicurists need 250 hours of instruction but allow charter school teachers to get certified with far fewer hours of training?”

“Lowering standards would not be acceptable for any other profession; this is an insult to the teaching profession,” said state Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia and Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa in a statement.

Only charter schools authorized by SUNY can gain teacher certification under the new pathway, and they have to have a proven record of student success to even apply. Interested charters can submit a proposed certification program to the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, which would approve or deny the program within 120 days.

Training Rules Continued on next page.

Training Rules Continued

The institute oversees 167 charter schools statewide, including five in Albany and one in Troy.

Supporters of the plan say it will lead to more and better candidates to choose from, as well as more diversity in teaching ranks, which tend to be overwhelmingly white and female.

Both the United Federation of Teachers and the Alliance for Quality Education, an advocacy group backed by teachers' unions, previously threatened to sue over the plan, with AQE saying in a letter Tuesday that "substantial revisions" made to the original proposal required an additional public comment period under state law that was not provided.

Others, including NYSUT, contend the action violates state education law, which authorizes only the state education commissioner to establish rules around teacher certification. Elia and Rosa also warned the action would violate law in written public comment submitted to the committee this summer.

The committee first proposed the regulations in early July in a deal worked out in the final days of the 2017 legislative session, prompting worry that such a sweeping change to teacher certification in New

York was motivated by politics and not the needs of students.

Blowback was immediate and intense, with critics ripping the committee's proposal that charter school teachers only be required to have 30 hours of classroom instruction in the teaching field. Elia, at an event covered by Chalkbeat New York, said of the requirement in August: "I could go into a fast food restaurant and get more training than that."

In response to the outpouring of criticism, the committee amended the original regulations to require teachers have 160 hours of classroom instruction instead of 30. But other changes, first unveiled over the weekend, have generated nearly as much controversy as the original proposal, including the requirement that prospective teachers have 40 hours of experience in the field, instead of 100 initially proposed. Current state law requires teachers have a master's degree, or be working toward one. The committee's plan requires neither a master's nor a bachelor's degree.

Source: www.timesunion.com



The NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund depends on voluntary donations.

Please send a check or make online donations using PayPal via the Make a Donation link at www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/disaster-relief.

NYSUT assumes 100 percent of the administrative costs associated with the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund.

Register to Vote



Qualifications to Register to Vote

Be a United States citizen;

Be 18 years old by December 31 of the year in which you file this form (note: you must be 18 years old by the date of the general, primary or other election in which you want to vote);

Live at your present address at least 30 days before an election;

Not be in prison or on parole for a felony conviction and;

Not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court;

Not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

How and Where to Register to Vote (Deadlines)

You can register in person at your county board of elections or at any New York State Agency-Based voter registration center.

You may also submit your voter application form at the Department of Motor Vehicles, either in person or on their web site if you already have DMV-issued identification.

You can enter your name directly into our mailing list database to have a New York State Voter Registration Form mailed to you.

You can call our **1-800-FOR-VOTE** hotline to request a voter application.

Changing NY's constitution common, even if convention isn't

State legislature has sought to amend the state's founding document hundreds of times



ALBANY — State Sen. Jim Tedisco helped rewrite the state Constitution.

As an assemblyman, the Glenville Republican pushed for, and won, passage of a constitutional amendment to make the Legislature paperless, replacing reams of dead-tree legislation dumped onto lawmakers desks with tablets outfitted with bill searching capabilities. In 2014, the voters approved Proposition Two, and in 2015 the tablets arrived.

Tedisco's amendment is one of more than 200 originating in the Legislature that voters have blessed since 1894. They'll be asked to weigh in on two more at the November election.

At the same time, voters will have the ability to trigger a constitutional convention process, through which New Yorkers — from the Capitol insider to the blue collar worker — would have a chance to similarly help rewrite the state's founding document.

So is the legislative process or the convention process, which would be held in 2019, more effective at changing New York?

It depends on whom you ask.

"Right now you have a majority of different bodies in each house, there's not just one voice out there," Tedisco said of the legislative process. "The Republicans in the Senate can be a check on the Democrats in the Assembly. ... There's an upstate-downstate differentiation. So I think what you're going to do is get a balance where there's compromise and they're going to make sure they're voting on what's in the best interest of the entire state."

SUNY New Paltz political scientist Gerald Benjamin, a convention supporter, sees the Legislature's ability to make major constitutional change differently.

State Constitution Continued

“It’s laughable to hear the argument that the Legislature is willing to change the fundamentals of our political system,” he said at a Times Union forum last week.

“Those amendments have to do with adjusting our civil service exams or allowing ski trails to be wider in the Catskills. They are not amendments that have to do with the substance and the operation of government.”

Among the procedural differences between the legislative and convention amendment processes is way in which amendments pass through each body. Amendments must be passed by two consecutively elected Legislatures before it can go to the voters (in other words, an amendment passed in 2017, can’t receive second passage until 2019). At a convention, a majority of the 204 delegates must decide what amendments will be put before voters.

There are no limitations on what can be proposed as an amendment using either process, though what ultimately has come from each has been viewed differently by both sides of the debate.

Convention supporters point to the headline-makers, such as the Forever Wild clause through

the 1894 convention process that protected vast state forest tracts. Similarly, supporters note that the 1938 convention brought new state responsibilities regarding social welfare and established labor protections for public projects.

Conventions also have looked at controversial issues that the Legislature has not acted on. At the 1967 convention, delegates put forward, as part of a package of amendments, a proposal to create an independent redistricting commission and to forbid gerrymandering. But because voters rejected the package deal put on the budget, the change never came to be.

Since New Yorkers voted last against holding a convention in 1997, legislative amendments have run the gamut. A 2001 amendment made the Constitution gender-neutral. A 2013 amendment paved the way for upstate casinos. A 2014 amendment established a new commission to redraw legislative and congressional districts every 10 years. And, of course, there was Tedisco’s Proposition Two.

Source: www.timesunion.com



Some Charter Schools Can Certify Their Own Teachers, Board Says



The State University of New York took a step on Wednesday that will make it easier for some charter schools to hire teachers.

The charter schools committee of SUNY's Board of Trustees voted to approve regulations that will allow some schools to design their own teacher-training programs and certify their own teachers.

The proposal had been criticized by opponents of charter schools, including teachers' unions, and others. But proponents of the regulations said that they were needed to allow the schools to broaden the pool of candidates.

"In the midst of a widely recognized teacher shortage, SUNY's vote today ensures that kids of color will have access to great teachers and exceptional educational outcomes," Eva S. Moskowitz, the founder and chief executive of Success Academy Charter Schools, wrote in a statement on Wednesday.

SUNY is one of two entities in the state that can grant charters, and the charter schools it oversees include the state's highest-performing ones. This year, 88 percent of SUNY-authorized charter schools outperformed their districts on the state math tests, and 83 percent outperformed their districts on the state reading tests. Students at Success Academy, which is authorized by SUNY, outperformed not only

Certify Teachers Continued

students in New York City's traditional public schools but those in every other district in the state.

Ms. Moskowitz, whose network is expanding rapidly and faces difficulty in recruiting enough teachers, was seen as having a hand in the political deal that led to the new regulations. In 2016, in exchange for granting Mayor Bill de Blasio an extension of mayoral control over schools, the Republicans in the State Senate, to whom Ms. Moskowitz has close ties, inserted broad language in the legislation giving SUNY the power to promulgate regulations for the schools it oversees.

In recent days, SUNY increased the number of hours of classroom instruction that teacher candidates must receive under the proposed plan, from 30 to 160 hours, and decreased the number of hours of teaching practice they must complete, from 100 to 40 hours. The changes seemed partly designed to address the criticism of the state education commissioner, MaryEllen Elia, who said of the original proposal, "I could go into a fast-food restaurant and get more training than that."

In the wake of the vote, Ms. Elia and Betty A. Rosa, the chancellor of the Board of Regents, released a statement saying, "This change lowers standards and will allow inexperienced and unqualified individuals to teach those children that are most in need" and called the change "an insult to the teaching profession." (The Board of Regents itself voted last month to make it easier to pass one of the state's certification exams.)

Kate Walsh, the president of the National Council on Teacher Quality, expressed ambivalence about the regulations.

"What we're doing now to prepare teachers is so broken that I don't really have a problem with a group of high-performing schools saying, 'We can do this better on our own,'" she said.

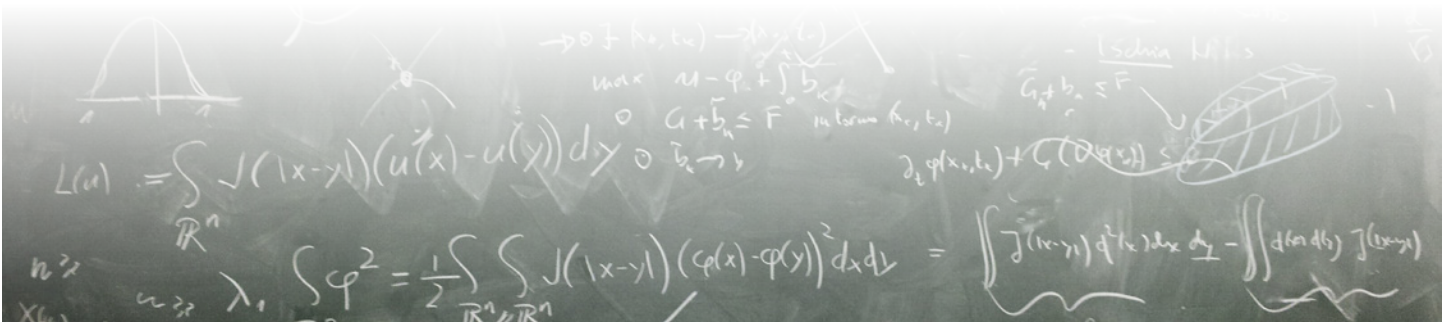
But she was unimpressed by the certification requirements.

"It's, 'Here, we'll make our candidates go out and take, what is this, a three-credit course that everybody will roll their eyes and say, 'This isn't very helpful,' but higher ed will get the dollars, so you get higher ed off your back,'" Ms. Walsh said. At the same time, she said, "I don't understand how you justify reducing the practice time to 40 hours, which is not even two weeks of school."

Certifications earned under these regulations will only be valid at charter schools authorized by SUNY, so teachers who want to transfer to other charters or to traditional public schools will need to take additional steps to earn a conventional state certification.

Michael Mulgrew, the president of the United Federation of Teachers, the city teachers' union, had urged the members of the charter schools committee on Wednesday morning to reject the regulations, which he said would lower standards for charter schoolteachers, and promised to sue if the new regulations were approved.

Source: www.nytimes.com



Have you had your financial check-up lately?

NYSUT Member Benefits launches the new Financial Planning Center!

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the launch of our NEW online Financial Planning Center. This enhanced site will assist NYSUT members and their families with making a variety of important financial decisions.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Financial Planning Center provides helpful tools and resources to assist members with a number of crucial decisions regarding financial wellness and retirement planning.

This new site includes more than 100 modules on different financial topics along with a financial fitness check-up to see where members stand with their financial knowledge.

Whether it's planning for retirement, saving for college for your children or considering purchasing a home, the choices we need to make on a regular basis are never easy. If you're already enjoying retirement, you may be dealing with long-term care needs, managing your investments and estate planning.

NYSUT members can get assistance with these questions and more with our NEW Financial Planning Center.



To access the Financial Planning Center (and more than 100 planning modules), visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** and click on **“Financial Planning Center.”**

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit ***memberbenefits.nysut.org*** or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Happenings

HAPPY HOUR WITH SABEA

Friday, October 20th from 3-6 PM in the Taproom

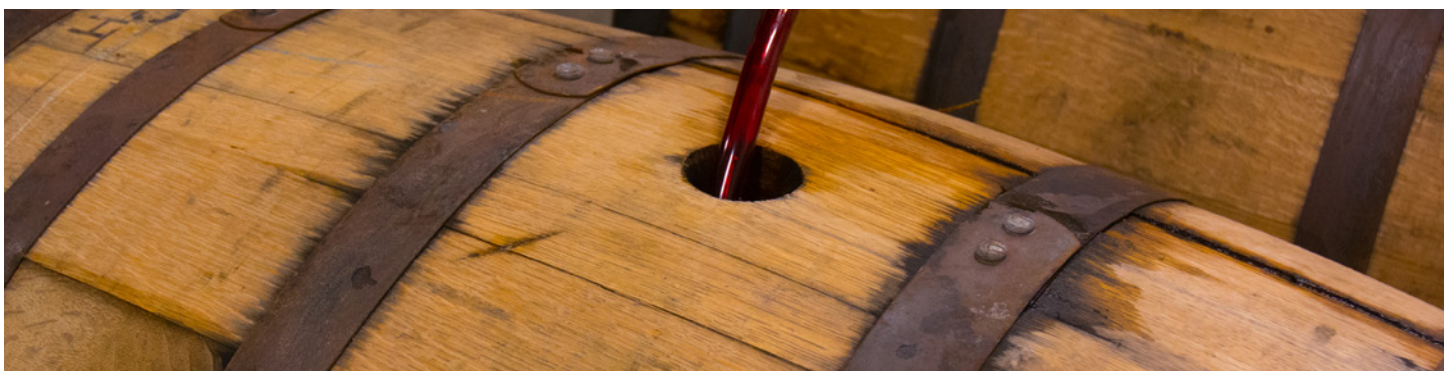


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Please do not bring in any beverages of your own!



SABEA Sunshine

June 2017:

Lynn Mitchell- SSTLC: Ill
Linda Griffen- retiree: Husband passed
Rich LaLone- SSTLC: Injured
Tim Rock- SSTLC: Injured
Sherri Phillips: Husband passed
Jean Green- Myers: Brother in law passed
Chris Ogden-Myers: Mother passed
Mary Moyles- Myers, Surgery
Brooke Einig- Myers: BABY!!
Kim Kaise- SSTLCr: ill

July 2017:

Mary German: mother in law passed

August 2017:

Andrew Esperti- Myers: passed

September 2017:

Nathan Millerwurst: Grandmother in law passed
Roxanne Nabozny- Myers: Father passed
Brian Sheere- Myersr: Ill
Jeff Rescott- Myers: car accident
John Winch-SAEC: surgery

October 2017:

Gwen Novivk: retiree, surgery
Cindy Lucaputo, surgery
Carol Worfe: retiree, surgery
Michele Morris: SAEC, surgery
Joanne Sehlmeyer: retiree, passed away
Carley Bennett: Myers, Married
Hillary Skeans- Myers: new baby