

**NOTE FROM PRESIDENT RUTH SHIPPEE:**

**"THEY DID, WE SHOULD, WE WILL"**

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**WE DID IT!  
NYSUT and  
coalition partners  
defeat Prop 1**



<https://youtu.be/5NWddp1Y754>



*Giving Thanks*

Labor showed that it is alive, well and active in New York State. Thank you to all who voted and helped get others to look at the issues. After a few years of not recognizing how fortunate we are in New York State to have a strong labor union movement, many of us have realized we can't take it for granted anymore. NYSUT is also recognizing that making connections with members is important to remain vital. Expect that either a local SABEA rep or another member from NYSUT to help keep you informed of the issues we are facing through a personal contact. The current Supreme Court case of Janus that will be possibly having a huge impact on labor - please stay tuned and ready for action. Do what you can to support the labor movement in New York and the country.

I hope you all had opportunities to thank our Veterans- their service and dedication to protecting our country, families and rights is priceless.

I also hope that each of you have a chance to be with friends and family for Thanksgiving. We are fortunate to live in a country where we have the right to express our views and influence policy.

Happy Thanksgiving

Ruth  
SABEA President



# To: SABEA *Members*

From: Jo James, 1st Vice President



I was able to attend the Capital District Regional Office Leadership Conference October 13-15. I attended workshops on advancing advocacy in our changing environment to learn how to make the most of provisions in our collective bargaining agreement to strengthen our associations ability to communicate and better represent members. I also attended a session on Family Medical Leave Act and the new Paid Family Leave Act that SABEA will be meeting with the BOCES about in the near future. Another workshop focused on regional trends and topics related to health insurance including prescription formulary design, specialty drugs, health plan design trends and the impact of regional health insurance consortia on negotiations.

The Commissioner of Education invited me to be one of about 20 educators from across the state to be on an advisory council for the next 3 years. I spend the day October 11 meeting with the Commissioner and her support staff from State Education department engaged in meaningful conversations about the Next Generation Learning Standards, APPR, the teacher shortage and the NYS English as a Second Language Achievement Test.

If you are a teacher working on a Students With Disabilities certificate, please consider graduate classes offered through NYSUT's Education Learning Trust. Classes are offered through Empire State College at a significant discount to NYSUT members. Members pay \$800 for a graduate class (on line it will be billed as a 33% discount from the non-member price of \$1200. [Link to NYSUT ELT](#)

In closing I urge all members to read your contract. There is important information regarding how and when to submit paperwork and getting approval for a variety of situations.



## AFT-endorsed candidates won big on election night

Source: NYSUT Media Relations



The Nov. 7 election results were a clear and overwhelming rebuke of the fearmongering and race-baiting that embodies Trumpism, AFT President Randi Weingarten says. “It was also clear that voters understood that running as a populist is not the same as acting as one or governing for the people.

“This election was a real ‘which-side-are-you-on?’ moment in which the candidates who demonstrated that they truly care for and will fight for people, and that they stand for public education, affordable healthcare and good jobs, overwhelmingly beat those who, like Trump, seek to campaign as a populist but serve the elites.”

The results were made possible by the hard work, on the ground, of union members, volunteers and candidates who talked and connected with voters, understood and listened to their legitimate anger and frustration with what is going on in our country today, and offered a path forward based on the aspirations we all share for a better life,” she adds.

“Yesterday’s results were a clear repudiation of the efforts by Trump and the GOP to strip healthcare away from people, go after people’s rights, and push Education Secretary Betsy DeVos’ agenda to defund and privatize public schools. And the message to Congress should be clear—don’t try to ram through a tax plan that gives massive tax breaks to the rich and

corporations at the expense of the middle class.

“We celebrate every one of our members and every other volunteer who made phone calls, knocked on doors, drove people to the polls, and got out the vote to create a wave of wins across the nation. Elections matter—and we need to continue this wave and this enthusiasm through 2018 to elect even more governors, state legislators, U.S. representatives and U.S. senators who will stand with working folks and not those trying to get even richer off the backs of working families and the middle class.”

### Highlights from Election 2017:

In Virginia, AFT-endorsed candidates won all statewide elections, and Democrats gained at least 16 House of Delegates seats. The stakes of this election were enormous for working folks and for our kids—and for public education, decency and an economy that works for all.

In New Jersey, AFT-endorsed candidate Phil Murphy won the governor’s race by 13 points, and state Sen. Steve Sweeney was overwhelmingly re-elected. These victories offer new hope and new opportunity for the people of New Jersey who for years have had a blustering bully for a governor, who disrespected educators, nurses and working people.



In New York, a referendum calling for a state constitutional convention was defeated with more than 80 percent of the vote. It was the work of union members and allies across the state that helped educate the public and ensure victory on Election Day, despite support for the referendum early in the campaign. And in New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio was re-elected, becoming the first Democratic mayor to be re-elected there since Ed Koch was re-elected in 1985.

In Douglas County, Colo., AFT members and voters defeated Koch brother-supported, anti-public education candidates to ensure a pro-public education school board.

In Houston, AFT members and voters elected additional pro-public education school board members, who will work with educators and families to help them continue to heal and rebuild after Hurricane Harvey, create community schools, ensure local control and fight for additional funding.

- In Maine, voters approved Medicaid expansion.
- In Washington state, Democrats regained control of the state Senate.
- School bond initiatives won across the country, including in Cincinnati, Austin and across Minnesota.
- The Republican supermajority in the Georgia Senate was broken.
- AFT-endorsed mayors won in Lawrence, Mass.; Detroit; St. Paul, Minn.; and across the country.
- AFT members were elected in Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania and Virginia.





## From CDRO (Capital District Regional Office of NYSUT)

Action comes a day after SUNY board approved changes for charters



In response to the large number of new hires regionally we are hosting New Teacher Workshops in the month of January.

Workshops are for First Year Teachers, or any new teacher in his or her first five(5) years, (first year teachers are particularly encouraged to attend) and Local Presidents and/or Local Mentor Coordinators.

On line registration is now open. Please register at: <http://www.cvent.com/d/ptqpzg>. Meeting dates and locations follow:

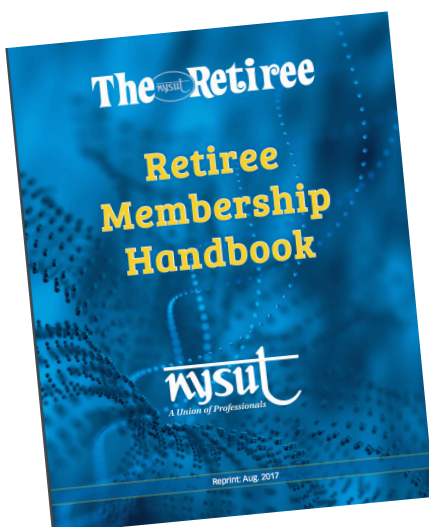
**January 11th - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Questar Central Office, Castleton**

**January 16th - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Saratoga High School, Saratoga**

**January 25th - 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. NYSUT Headquarters, Latham**

We do have limited space for these events, so sign up early!  
Please have all attendees register via this link [www.cvent.com/d/ptqpzg](http://www.cvent.com/d/ptqpzg).

## Those members who are thinking about joining the ranks of retired SABEA people.



Please make sure to:

Check with either the NYTRS or NYSERS to make sure you have reviewed your options and package

Review SRP and Faculty contracts  
(Faculty contract Articles 10.13 & 12, SRP contract 12 & 18.9)

Meet deadlines as per contract.

Review NYSUT materials located at:  
[www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/members/2017/retiree\\_retireehandbook.pdf?la=en](http://www.nysut.org/~media/files/nysut/members/2017/retiree_retireehandbook.pdf?la=en)

# WE DID IT! NYSUT and coalition partners defeat Prop 1



<https://youtu.be/5NWddp1Y754>

“On Nov. 7, New York saw what happens when labor organizes, mobilizes and acts as one to protect working people,” said President Andy Pallotta.

The overwhelming defeat of the referendum on a constitutional convention -- 83 percent to 17 percent -- was a victory for labor and working people over political insiders and corruption. Two years ago, polling showed two-thirds of likely voters supported the ConCon, and grassroots efforts more than flipped it.

“This is a defining moment for the labor movement as it demonstrates what can be accomplished when we all work together,” said state AFL-CIO President Mario Cilento.

## Republicans in Congress want to take away your tax deductions

One of the ways President Trump and the GOP leadership are planning to pay for tax giveaways to the wealthiest Americans is by eliminating the state and local tax deduction, which would hurt schools and property values. They also plan to eliminate the teacher deduction for classroom expenses -- \$250 taken from every teacher in New York State.

Wanna get mad? This video tweeted by the NEA will make your jaw drop!  
<https://twitter.com/NEAToday/status/928012437198180352>

## What do you think about when you hear the term “union work?”



Most people immediately have a vision of unions negotiating contracts that include better pay and working conditions for their members. A sub-set will think about union members picketing or protesting an injustice -- or even going on strike -- to defend bedrock principles. And, sure, unions like NYSUT regularly fight for better healthcare, safe working conditions and an affordable college education for all. We raise money for victims of national tragedies, like the recent hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Yes, union work involves all of that. It's in our DNA. But, union work can also mean organizing an entire region's population to come together to strengthen education and bring jobs back. That's exactly what is happening now in an impoverished corner of the North Country. The People Project in Saint Lawrence County is an exciting new, union-led initiative that is expanding the definition of “union work.” The People Project has its origins in the successful 2015 effort to stop ALCOA – the giant aluminum manufacturing company – from fleeing Massena and taking with it hundreds of good-paying union jobs. Once the union-

led coalition succeeded in keeping those ALCOA jobs in the North Country, it became apparent that there is still a lot of work to do in Saint Lawrence County. Led by NYSUT member Erin Covell – and armed with grant money and support from NYSUT and the American Federation of Teachers – the People Project is now on to Phase Two. It has brought together local educators from all 18 St. Lawrence County school districts. They are working to build a vibrant network that focuses on community engagement; high-quality public schools; and a sustainable economy that supports everyone.

For the past year, The People Project has been working closely with community members, employers, government and not-for-profit leaders to better identify community needs – and to come up with solutions. The coalition has already begun working to strengthen community services such as literacy and education, improve health services, start a healthy foods initiatives, and support affordable housing and mentoring programs. The big idea is, that if children and their communities do better, this growth will better position Saint Lawrence County to attract more good jobs and spark a new cycle of economic development. The seeds are there. Saint Lawrence County is already home to two SUNY campuses, a private college and a number of health and human services organizations. Volunteer fire departments, members of the faith community and local business leaders have all bought in and joined the coalition. The People Project is meeting for its first summit at SUNY Potsdam and I plan on being there.

I think it's great that NYSUT local unions are stretching the definition of union work. It's good for children. It's good for schools. It's good for the community. And, its good for the local economy. And, when 18 local unions are spearheading the effort, there's no doubt the People Project will succeed.

*Andy Pallotta,  
a former elementary teacher, is president of the  
600,000-member New York State United Teachers.*



## NYSUT Member Benefits... more than just insurance!

***As an additional benefit to NYSUT members and their families, your union membership allows you to participate in more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits.***

These offerings include crucial products that you may already purchase such as life, auto & homeowners insurance, unbiased financial services and expert legal advice. But your NYSUT membership also allows you to participate in a variety of shopping, travel and personal programs that can help you save on everyday purchases and those special occasions.



**Our endorsed shopping/travel/personal programs offer savings on numerous online purchases, including:**

**Theme Park & Movie Tickets  
Hotel & Vacation Discounts  
Car & Truck Rentals**

**Office Supply Discounts  
Retail Store Discounts  
Concerts & Sporting Events**

**Electronics Discounts  
Ski Tickets  
Car Buying Service**

Participation in Member Benefits-endorsed programs also gives you a trusted advocate ready to assist you with any issues or concerns with any of our programs.



### **Member Appreciation Month coming in February 2018!**

As a show of thanks to the more than 600,000 NYSUT members that comprise this labor union, NYSUT Member Benefits will once again be holding our annual Member Appreciation Month celebration in February 2018.

Special prize drawings will be held each day of the month. To be eligible to win, you must be a member of our voluntary MAP Alert email service.

Sign up any time through the end of February 2018 to be eligible to win... but if you join MAP by January 31, 2018, you'll have the most chances to win!

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.

# SABEA Sunshine

## **Feb 2017:**

Marshall Zeh: Passed  
Morine Talmadge: Mother passed  
Carol Canfield Hayes: Passed

## **March 2017:**

Judy Coffman: Ill  
Jim Shannon: passed

## **April 2017:**

Amanda Dean, Sister in law passed

## **May 2017:**

Stacia Pratt Dodge, Married  
Kelly Shepard, Baby  
Bob Pecue, Ill  
Dennis Batty, Surgery  
Andy Esperti, Ill

## **June 2017:**

Kelly Dowd: aunt passed  
Lexi Glover: Aunt passed  
Stacy Kelly: Mother in law passed  
Amy Harris: Sister in law passed

Corky Tucker: Uncle passed  
Paula Katz: Death in family  
John Heslin: Surgery  
Joanne Bemis: Son passed  
Lisa Fearis: surgery  
Pam Valastro: surgery  
Amanda Dean: uncle passed  
Kevin Buell: Uncle passed  
Pan Thomas: Dad passed  
Andrew Gates: baby boy

## **October 2017:**

Ruth Shippee: Mother in law passed  
Bruce Hoffmann: Myers, death in family

## **November 2017:**

Kathy Hubbell: Myers, surgery  
Stacy Hallenbeck: Myers, married  
Miriam Davis-Doern,. Myers, death in family  
Linda Robinson: Ill  
Joyce Jones: Myers, death in family  
Joyce jones: Myers, new grandchild  
Karen August: Myers, death in family