



Update

Vol. 39 No. 1

September 2014

WELCOME BACK

It seems like yesterday that I addressed you in the auditorium at Sewanhaka, but the truth of the matter is that one month of the school year is almost gone. I must be having fun 'cause time is flying! While the month of September hasn't necessarily been fun it has been productive and, in many ways, positive.

VOTE-COPE: We started off the year with Jeff Zuckerman's presentation on Vote-Cope. As of Friday, September 19th 60% of our membership has signed up – either through payroll deductions or with an annual check. Here's the breakdown by building...

Elmont:	100/130 members = 77%
Floral Park:	83/130 members = 64%
Sewanhaka:	89/144 members = 62%
H.F. Carey:	81/137 members = 59%
New Hyde Park:	65/151 members = 43%

Vote-Cope is the driving force behind NYSUT's political agenda. It allows NYSUT to lobby in Albany and Washington for pro-education legislation, to endorse candidates who have a history of educational support and to publicly address educational issues with radio, television and newspaper advertisements. NYSUT is fighting billion dollar corporate interests like the Koch Brothers and the Gates Foundation. Every dollar is significant to protect tenure, collective bargaining, Triborough, and defined pensions. Did you know that 20% of our local's contribution to Vote-Cope comes back to us from NYSUT in the form of a refund? That reimbursement is folded into our general budget and is used toward items like school budget votes, conventions and workshops as well as SFT-sponsored membership get-togethers. Bart Curcio has done an extraordinary job in keeping our local dues increases to a minimum. Here again, every dollar saved is significant. For those who have signed on, the first payroll deduction will be on October 17th. For those who have not yet signed on, what are you waiting for? See your building rep for an enrollment form, and do your part to protect our profession.

APPR: As we enter into our third year of this ridiculous bit of legislation, I reflect on the gastrointestinal upset it had brought to so many of us. My grandmother had called that feeling "agita." I knew then that we had to play the game according to SED's established rules. Each year, and sometimes mid-year, SED has changed the rules; and despite that, we have continued to do what we do best. We have taught our students to the best of our collective ability. In the first year of APPR (2012-2013) we had individual SLO's, individual pre- and post-tests and lots of that agita. In the end, almost all of us were rated Effective or Highly Effective; only a few members were rated in the Developing HEDI band. In the second year (2013-2014), we changed to building level SLO's with fewer individual SLO's, and 100% of our members were rated Effective or Highly Effective. We all know full well that the observation system we had in place before APPR was a far better method. But, in the end, we have played the game well. The APPR committee will be reconvening to review and make any necessary changes to our game plan. And I trust that we will all continue to do what we do best. Regardless of the game, regardless of the rules, regardless of how we are rated, we will be professional and teach the best we can. Our students deserve no less.



NEGOTIATIONS: Since returning to school, the SFT team has met twice with the District and has continued to make positive steps forward. The tenor of the meetings has been affable as both sides try to understand the needs of the other. When we first came to the table, the SFT had 53 demands and the District had 33. At this time, 16 of the initial demands have been agreed upon or withdrawn, and at least 7 additional items are close to being settled. We ask that you continue to be patient as we move through the remaining items and work toward that fine balance between increasing the quality of the work place environment and challenging economic circumstances.

SOLIDARITY: SFT Solidarity Days will occur on or about the 15th of each month. September 15th was our first SFT Solidarity Day, and each building reported a positive turnout in the wearing of blue t-shirts. Wednesday, October 15th will be your next chance to show your solidarity. If you still don't have a t-shirt, see your building rep ASAP! And, if you haven't signed up for the SFT email listserv, please do so at SFT-NEA.org. We need the ability to contact all of you in a timely manner without the use of District e-mail.

REMINDERS:

Contact your building rep if:

- ~ you have more than 3 teaching periods in a row (Not including productivity)
- ~ you have more than 4 working periods in a row (Not including productivity)
- ~ you have more than 150 students in one day
- ~ you do not have a lunch or prep period
- ~ you have more than 20% Special Ed students without a TA
- ~ you feel that something else doesn't seem "right" in your schedule

Other reminders:

- ~ Foreign Language teachers with 5 preps should not have a duty.
- ~ Check your student's IEP's on Eschool. (They have purple dots or green squares.)
- ~ Check your pay stub for accuracy. (Salary, dues, healthcare, annuities, etc.)
- ~ Check your mailboxes, e-mails and voicemail daily; and respond in a timely manner.
- ~ E-mails and websites can be monitored by administration – be professional.
- ~ Follow administrative directives, but see your rep if you have concerns about them.
- ~ Get prior approval for all course work on mylearningplan.
- ~ When in doubt, ask! We are here to serve you. Allow us to do that for you.

In Unity,

Ro

Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one. Malcolm Forbes

Officers:

President: Rosanne Mamo (x5070)
Vice President: John Koscinski (x2681)

Treasurer: Bart Curcio (x9326)
Secretary: Jennifer Gordon-Tennant (x9223)

Building Reps:

ELM: Charles Burkett (x9232), Ana Mojocoa (x9226)
HFC: Pat Frino (x9431), Kathleen Muller (x9422)
SEW: Maryanne Contarino (x9639), John Reagan (x2680)

FPM: Tom Burke (x9332), Karen Caporale (x9308)
NHP: Joe Grossi (x9525), Kevin Kowalczyk (x9531)

Committee Chairpersons:

Coaching: Kevin Dolan (x9528)
Health & Safety: Chris Mayer (x9430)
Nurse Rep: Lenora Elliot (x9254)
Public Relations: Shirley Pincay (x9525)
T.A. Rep: Ruth Ehrlich (x9232)

Grievance: Christine Plackis (x9352)
Internal Communication: Chris Brustman (x2681)
Political Action: Craig Barbieri (x9562), Tom Cook
Retiree Reps: Maddy Maffetore, Anna Zurawinsky
Teacher Liaison/Vote-Cope: John Ferrara (x9523)