

THE UNITED NEWSLETTER

LOCAL 15-175 NYSUT LOCAL 3072 AFT

June 2019

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“The State of Our Union”

Good Day Members:

Happy Spring! As we near the close of another school year, I am reminded of the poem ‘A Light Exists in Spring’ by Emily Dickenson. (<https://www.bartleby.com/113/2085.html>) Dickenson captures the way that spring slowly appears in our consciousness, like a light in the distance. There is a light in spring that isn’t present the rest of the year through the anticipation of the closing of another school year. And as time passes, this light silently passes away, leaving us wondering if we made a big enough impact on those around us. The loss of the light affects the level of contentedness we feel when we must say goodbye to our students as they move on to other parts of their lives, goodbye to our colleagues for the summer, and goodbye to the educator that we were this past year. Spring allows for us to reflect, rejuvenate, and start new. We can make changes. We can grow, both professionally and personally.

We must remember to take time for ourselves, to focus on personal aspects of our lives that may have been pushed to the side or neglected during the course of the busy school year. Educators, such as ourselves, work tirelessly all year as we have one of the most challenging and most meaningful jobs in the world. Each day we help kids navigate the path to adulthood and shape them in ways that often go unappreciated. In doing so, we forget to relax, breath in the smell of spring, and rejuvenate our mind and spirit.

What do you do to escape the increasing pressures of the teaching profession, rejuvenate your soul, and feel refreshed for the close of the academic year, both professionally and personally?

Thank you for being a valued Union Member and I hope you have an awesome Summer!

Douglas Andreotti
USA President



Congratulations on these wonderful milestones!

20 Years

Antonia Adams
Maureen Campbell
Stacy Chryssikos
Catherine Connolly
Teresa DeBellis
Michele DeMicco
Jean Giordano
Cynthia Lehr
Leo Penzine
Susan Rosenstrach
Maria Silva
Christine Spano
Carlo Vidrini
Jessica Yantos

25 Years

Patricia Gilman

Retirees

Robert Bennett
Helen May Jerolimo
Katherine Reardon
Donna Tortora
JodyKay Verbasco
Dorna Schroeter
Doreen Trani
Leo Penzine
Lorraine Macko
Maureen Campbell
Rita DeVito
Rosemary Gurka
Rose Anne Korsak
Kathleen Molchan-Hefner
Giuseppina Siconolfi
Shelley Einbinder-Fleischmann
Iris Niwinsky
Marla Gardner



You're invited to the End of the Year

USA General Membership Meeting

Please join us for a nice selection of food, beverages, and great company to wrap up the school year. We will also have a General Membership Meeting where we will honor our colleagues that are retiring.

Where: Travelers Restaurant
25 Saw Mill Rd Ossining
<https://www.travelersrestrestaurant.com/>

When: Thursday June 13, 2019

Time: 2:30P.M.-5:00P.M.



R.S.V.P: Karen Carey
kcarey@pnwboces.org

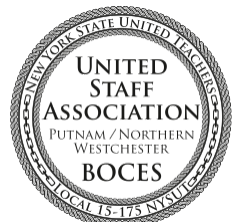


What Happens to my Sick Time during Delayed Openings and Closures?

If an employee is absent for the entire day, the employee is not given back any time at all.

If an employee has taken personal leave and do not report to work at the time we are open, they are charged person leave from the time the day starts to the time the employee reports.

The only scenario when personal or sick leave is given back is if BOCES is closed for the entire day.



Welfare Fund Announcements



As of July 1st, Jenna Larkin will be the Chairperson of the United Staff Association Welfare Fund. Jenna can be reached on her BOCES email at jlarkin@pnwboces.org

****A note from the USA Executive Board: We would like to thank Dawn Galvin for her many years of exceptional service and representation as the Welfare Fund Chairperson.**

Silvanna Padilla at Daniel H. Cook Associated is the client representative specific to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund. She is the point of contact for active, retired, and COBRA members. Should any issue arise pertaining to your claims, eligibility and/or COBRA/Retiree payments, please send to Silvanna.

Silvanna Padilla
silvannapadilla@dhcook.com
(914) 250-0700, extension 438



United Staff Association Welfare Fund Benefits Summary

Members of the United Staff Association are eligible for Welfare Fund benefits at no cost. Limited benefits are available to your spouse, domestic partner, and eligible dependents. Select legal fund benefits are available to parents and parent-in-laws. If you work over 15 hours per week, you are eligible for full benefits. If you work 15 hours or less per week, you are eligible for half of the self-insured benefits and are not covered for life and long term disability insurance. All members are eligible for Legal Services benefit.

DENTAL BENEFIT: (member only):\$3000 maximal benefit per calendar year

preauthorization is required for expenses greater than \$600

**Family Dental Coverage is offered for an annual premium of \$950/year with restrictions on enrollment and utilization of benefits if you do not enroll for Family Dental upon hire or within 60 days of a status change

SPOUSAL/Domestic Partner DENTAL BENEFIT: Limited to routine cleanings, office visits and x-rays up to \$200 maximal per calendar year

OPTICAL BENEFIT: \$450 for member per calendar year
\$300 for dependents (spouse, eligible children) per calendar year

VARIABLE BENEFIT: \$600.00 maximum per family per calendar year to assist in certain out-of-pocket expenses. Submission of this benefit is allowed only when the amount is \$25.00 or more. This is a supplemental benefit and therefore items or procedures not covered under the primary plan are not covered by this benefit. This benefit can only be used to supplement the Dental and Optical benefits covered by the Fund.

Claim forms can be obtained via the secured website – www.dhcook.com, in the main office of your building, from building representatives, or by calling (914) 250-0700

LIFE INSURANCE: Benefit is 100% of your salary rounded to the next higher \$1,000 with minimum coverage of \$5,000 and maximum coverage of \$150,000. First Unum Life Insurance Company, 99 Park Avenue, 6th floor, New York, NY 10016. To update or review your beneficiaries contact the FUND Office at (914) 250-0700 or email at support@dhcook.com.

LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE: Maximum per week (60% of salary). First Unum Life Insurance Company.

LEGAL SERVICES BENEFIT includes representation in civil matters as well as general legal matters. Benefits include but are not limited to legal defense, matrimonial proceedings, adoption, personal bankruptcy, change of name, homeowner's rights (real estate transactions), general consultation, document review, will, living will, health care proxy, power of attorney, planning for elderly, probate and estate administration, personal injury, arraignment assistance via telephone, consumer protection, identify theft protection, estate planning, and prenuptial agreements.

Certain legal service benefits are also extended to parents and/or parent-in-laws of covered members.

Consultations and select legal services are at no cost with very low fees for other covered benefits. The attorneys are available for consultation on the first Monday of each month during the school year and by appointment during the summer months.

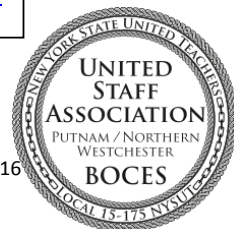
Call (914) 997-1576 to schedule an appointment.

Legal fund website:www.teacherslegalfund.com

Refer to your USA Welfare Fund Benefit Booklet for more specific information.

Actively employed members may decline coverage of Welfare Fund Benefits (dental and optical) for themselves and/or any enrolled dependents at any time by completing a Declination of Coverage form, which can be obtained by writing to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund at P.O. Box 403, Amawalk, NY 10501

01/01/2016



Welfare Fund Pre-Treatment Authorization Reminder

Reminder: pretreatment authorization is needed for extensive dental work.

Your claims will be denied if you do not obtain pretreatment authorization for extensive dental work such as crowns, bridges, dentures, implants, and osseous surgery.

PRETREATMENT AUTHORIZATION

When a dentist charges for a course of treatment will amount to \$ 600 or more, dental services must be authorized by the Fund **before treatment is provided.**

Pre-treatment authorization by the Fund's dental consultant is required for any extensive dental work such as crowns, bridges, dentures, implants, and osseous surgery. **X-rays must be included with treatment plans** submitted for pre-treatment authorization. Pre-treatment authorization by the Fund's dental consultant is limited to the approval of the course of treatment proposed. Pre-treatment authorization means that the services are warranted. It is not a guarantee of payment. If services rendered are for emergency treatment or due to an accidental injury, pre-treatment authorization can be obtained by telephone. Upon receipt of your request for pre-authorization, the Fund's Dental Consultant reviews the treatment plan and submits the authorization or denial to the Claim's Department for processing. An authorization form, along with an explanation of benefits, is then sent to your Provider and to you, the member. This will describe, in detail, what services were approved and the expected benefit payment. Pre-authorization requests are generally processed within 2 to 3 weeks of receipt.



Welfare Fund June Retiree Benefits

United Staff Association Information for June Retirees

RETIRES OPTION PLAN USA Welfare Fund Benefits

Welfare Fund benefits which are otherwise available to active members may be continued into retirement for those individuals who have maintained membership in the United Staff Association, Local 3072 for the ten (10) consecutive years prior to retirement and who continue to maintain their membership in good standing in the United Staff Association, Local 3072 as a retiree, and who remit applicable self-pay contributions established by the Trustees to continue Fund benefits on a timely basis. Life Insurance and Long Term Disability Insurance are not available under the retirees' option plan. Legal Fund benefits may be continued as an additional elective.

If you retire or resign from your position with BOCES, coverage for you and your eligible dependents ends the last day of the month during which you retire or resign. (Once the Fund is notified by BOCES of your retirement or resignation, you will be sent notices advising of your options to continue coverage pursuant to COBRA or the Fund's retiree continuation coverage program.)

- You must maintain your USA membership as a retiree to be eligible for Welfare Fund benefits in retirement.
- USA membership is \$15.00 annually: for questions regarding USA membership in retirement, please contact Sharlene Orlowsky, Treasurer of USA, at her BOCES email: sorlowsky@pnwboces.org. – you should receive a notice in December 2019 for your 2020 membership dues.
- USA Welfare Fund self-pay cost is \$60.00 per month for INDIVIDUAL dental benefits (dental/optical/variable) and \$150.00 per month for FAMILY DENTAL in retirement. You can pay however you like; at least 6 months contribution is preferred; however, you can pay each month or once a year.
- To continue the Legal Fund benefit in retirement, the cost is \$90 annually.

Upon receiving notification from BOCES of your retirement, Daniel H. Cook (the Welfare Fund Administrator) will send you a Retirees Option Letter. This letter should be returned to Cook ASAP. You may not receive this letter until late July or August- depending on the notification from BOCES about your retirement. The monthly contributions are payable to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund, 253 West 35th Street, 12th floor, New York, NY 10001

Silvanna Padilla at Daniel H. Cook Associates is the client representative specific to the United Staff Association Welfare Fund. She is the point of contact for active, retired, and COBRA members. Should any issues arise pertaining to your claims, eligibility and/or COBRA/Retiree payments, please send an email to Silvanna.

Silvanna Padilla
silvannapadilla@dhcook.com
914-250-0700, extension 438

If you would like to receive general retiree information or news, please email retired member, Winnie McCarthy, at wam48@aol.com and she will add you to her contact list. The United Staff Association is interested in hearing about your experiences in retirement to post in The United Newsletter. Send your news to Wynnie McCarthy at wam48@aol.com or call her at (914) 245-8353.



NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA)

I attended the NYSUT Representative Assembly (RA) in Albany with nearly 1,700 other NYSUT delegates representing schools from across NY State. We were reminded of our union roots and founders, lest we forget where we came from and what it took us to get here. NYSUT president, Andy Pallotta, resounded throughout the convention hall, “It’s a story of sacrifice, of the blood, sweat and tears of our foremothers and forefathers... a sacrifice that enables us all to sit in the shade of this great union today.”

Pallotta urged members “to look to, and never forget the past as they fight for the future”. Those past actions by our union brothers and sisters, Pallotta said, “built the foundation of this great union.” “He went on to say that, our enemies are just getting started... We’ve got to stay vigilant” referring to the recent U.S. Supreme Court Janus decision that ruled public-sector unions could not impose mandatory dues on members. Anti-union forces wanted to destroy us, but this challenge made us stronger. Stronger because we did the right thing. We organized; we knocked on doors; we made phone calls; we did whatever we needed to do. Pallotta was very happy to report “that the state of our union is strong.” “NYSUT is alive and well.” At the end of the day, we survived Janus and we will thrive in spite of it.

The ultimate survival of our union will depend not only on merely preventing (membership) dropouts, but also on our availability to convince new employees that union membership is important. We are not out of the woods and we cannot afford to stand still. We need to think long-term, beyond the latest crisis. I implore each of you to stay the course with our union and educate new colleges on the benefits of our local union and NYSUT. Go to www.nysut.org for more information about the RA and our Union.

In Solidarity
Larry Marino



Retiree News

Walter Fuzzy Ward, Retired Walden teacher, to be inducted into Hampton University Athletic Hall of Fame!!!

Lucille Miazga- When 2019 began, we received information about Teadoc, which was a new service provided by Aetna. I, myself, have used twice and been pleased. We just discovered this morning that Aetna will reimburse you for \$4000 for new hearing aides. Years ago when Tommy got his first hearing aides, I think we got back about \$400 for HEAR PO. I don't understand why this new hearing aide benefit was not being noted also especially for our retirees. I know we get all the new service booklets yearly, but I'm sure nobody goes through it cover to cover.

Marie Carlucci- Well, don't know if its news, but I went to Germany to visit my daughter and family. (They're there for 2/3 years) Then we went to Spain. In the meantime, I'm babysitting my grands, 20 month old twins, plus their 6 and 4 year old brothers. I'm also involved in several volunteer/charitable causes.

Carol Vales - has a TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) two years ago followed by surgery and has made some remarkable progress. She wants to update her friends, who have supported her and her family. Caro's husband was the business manager at BOCES at one time and her son worked at Walden. Below is her letter to all:

To all my family and friends,
First I want to say thank you for all your good wishes and wishing me a fast recovery. I know my family has been keeping you posted on my health which is doing great.

I am going to speech therapy one time a week on Tuesday for an hour. I also am having an hour with a specialist coming in to do writing and reading with me. Just to help me with whatever I have left over in my homework. Thursdays, I go to a course for 6.5 hours at Loyola College. Loyola is 3 hours from here. In this class, they help us with our Aphasia problems. I have had aphasia for 1.5 years and can now say I am doing well.

I have been diagnosed with Aphasia; my mind is confused. I can understand somethings, but not everything. Sometimes I don't even want to talk because I get off track. I don't want to speak up because I don't think it would make any sense. I have

to let you ask me questions so I can understand things, and you have to ask me questions when I'm not being clear.

I am very thankful to my husband, Marcel. I am also grateful to Mark and Bridget, Denise and Bill, Joey and my grandchildren because they have been here for me. I just wanted to let you know I am doing great and thanks for all your cards, letters, and phone calls. Thank you for all your prayers. Good Bless you and I keep praying for you.

Laurie lake Levine received the Diversity and Inclusion Award from her chapter at the American Red Cross for her service in Florida. Both Laurie and her husband, Arthur, volunteer with the Red Cross for all kinds of disaster and most recently in the panhandle of FL after the last hurricane.

Rich Devir and his wife, Barbara, have been on an extensive tour of Australia. Rich posted photos of his daughters wedding with Barbara officiating.

Barbara and Art Burnap celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a gala and have continued studying languages since they met at a language club years ago. They have plans this fall for a Heritage Tour to explore her Slovak genealogy.

Carol Franks Randall, a retired BOCES teacher and administrator has published a new children's book! She has been to Walden school for readings of her pervious books.

Retiree Sympathy

We extend our Sympathy to the family members and friends of deceased USA member:

Don McKenzie, former Superintendent of BOCES died in early May. Don was a great person and provided leadership to so many programs.

We try to include as much as possible from the retirees.

If you have news to share, please send it:



Wynnie McCarthy
36 Cheshire Lane
Yorktown, NY 10598
wam48@aol.com



Union Representatives

Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
914-607-6736

Executive Board:

President	Doug Andreotti
1st Vice President (Special Education)	Catherine Armisto
2nd Vice President (CTE)	Stephanie Buckhout
Secretary	Judy Gillet
Treasurer	Sharlene Orlowsky
Membership Chairperson	Stacey Chiarella
Grievance Co-Chairperson (Special Education)	Lisa Giacomini-Essell
Grievance Co-Chairperson (CTE)	Larry Marino
Negotiations Chairperson	Al Cotoia
Program Rep Chairperson	Magaly Almonte

Program Representatives

Administrator

Jim Bellucci
Michael Sowul
Steve Lowery
Nicole Murphy
Csilla Mate/Michael Sowul
Csilla Mate/Pinesbridge
Lisa Hammel
RSE/TASC/Patti Slobogin

Representative

Lisa Tobin
Taheera Mushatt
Marie Russo
Nate Ball
Danielle Iammatteo (CLASS Transitions)
Deirdre Toolan
Margo Schepart
Stephanie Wozniak

United Staff Association Welfare Fund

c/o Daniel H. Cook Associates
253 West 35th Street, 12th Floor
New York, New York 10001

Chairperson:	Dawn Galvin
Chairperson as of July 1:	Jenna Larkin
Secretary:	Deirdre Toolan
Treasurer:	Doreen Trani
Trustees:	Doug Andreotti Jessica Fytros Maria Pontbriand
Alternate Trustees:	Cristin Deagan Jenna Larkin Karina Rodrigues
Consultant:	Flo Laicher
Administrator:	Daniel Cook Associates www.dhcook.com
Contact for USA Members and Retirees:	Silvanna Padilla silvannapadilla@dhcook.com (914) 250-0700, EXT 438
Legal Fund:	(914) 997-1576 www.teacherslegalfund.com

Upcoming Meetings

Upcoming Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 4, 2019

3:00 P.M.
Pinesbridge Conference Room

Upcoming General Membership Meeting

June 13, 2019
2:30PM-5:00PM

Travelers Rest
25 Saw Mill Road Ossining, NY
www.travelersrestrestaurant.com



A Bouquet from Us

Congratulations to...

Nicole Galderisi - birth of daughter
Rebecca Roper-Eckstein-birth of daughter
Jenna Longobardi - birth of son.



Send items for A Bouquet from Us to
Karen Carey at kcarey@pnwboces.org



To schedule an appointment
with the lawyers at
Mirkin & Gordon, Members
should call (914) 997-1576.

IMPORTANT:

Grievance Co-Chairpersons are:

Larry Marino (CTE)

lmario@pnwboces.org (914) 248-2480 (ext.480).

Lisa Giacomini-Essell (Special Education)

ligiacomini-essell@pnwboces.org (914)248-2264 (ext. 264)



We are on the Web!

pnwb.ny.aft.org



Thanks to All:

Thank you to everyone who contributes to this Newsletter by submitting articles, important information, bouquets, or helping with the printing and/or distribution throughout the school year.

Please send Retiree News for the Newsletter to Wynnie McCarthy, wam48@aol.com or
36 Cheshire Lane Yorktown, NY 10598.
We want to reach out to more Retirees.

Please send Newsletter worthy information to
Meredith Markolovic (Tech) at mmarkolovic@pnwboces.org.

