



THE BEACON

BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk
Union Local 3037



President's Report Thelma Shaw

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Inside this issue:

President's Report	1-3
Executive Vice President	4
First Vice President	5
Paraeducators	6
Benefits	7-8
Retiree Report	8
Special Education	9
Related Services	9
S.C.T.E.	10
C.T.E.	10
Election Biographies	11-15

Welcome to the year 2010, the start of a new decade. With the holiday distractions behind us, which is almost impossible to imagine as it just seemed like opening day, it is important to focus on the future and what lies ahead for our members.

While we survived the challenges of 2009 including excessing, reductions in classroom budgets, an economy in crisis, and a state budget deficit that keeps on growing, we have many new and different hurdles ahead of us. There is still much uncertainty as this edition of the BEACON goes to print as to what will occur here at ESB in the spring. The school year of 2010 – 2011 is unique in that the 3 million dollar deficit from the lack of mid year cuts this year is going to be carried over into a new school year. Because of this lack of mid year cuts that Gov. Paterson did not get passed, statewide cuts to school aid will be in the range of 8-10% for next year. On January 7, 2010, a meeting was held with all union presidents and the members of the ESB Cabinet. The intent of this meeting was to make us aware of the parameters within which budgets for next year will be prepared. The projections for next year are not good.

The projected special ed. student number is 1435 which is again a decrease of 79 students. To grasp the seriousness of the situation one need only look at the recent past. Historically, special education took in 5 to 10 students per month. This school year, from Sept. 2009 until Dec. 31, 2009, our special ed. enrollment numbers were 97 and we dropped 95, so we took in a net of 2 students. We currently have 176 open slots for special education students. We have had no growth for this year so far.

CTE is in jeopardy as districts struggling to made ends meet have established stringent criteria for students to be able to attend our programs.

This makes CTE much more vulnerable to budget fluctuations. These situations will create a dire fiscal situation for all of us and will cause significant cuts to personnel and services that we offer. I urge all of our members to check our website frequently. This is where any breaking news that is "hot off the press" will be posted. If the need arises to speak with our membership as a whole on the fiscal challenges we are facing, we will announce this via our building representatives and our website. I urge all of our members to visit our website and read the letter to local presidents from NYSUT president Richard Iannuzzi. In addition, I implore you to stay involved and fax your legislator.

President's Report

I am proud of the fact that hours after the Tier 5 legislation was signed and the intent of a 55/25 incentive was verbally agreed to, we had it on our website. On the topic of the 55/25, 3 days after the proposed incentive was made public I had a meeting with Michael Locantore and discussions were started about the delivery of this incentive at ESB. While ESB must offer this incentive during the window period once it is established (without the 18 month contractual notice), they have the right to decide how and when the terminal leave payouts would be distributed. The agency would have to take into account how many TRS and ERS members were taking advantage of the incentive and what the financial impact on the 2010 – 2011 budget would be. We will have to write a separate side bar for both contracts to cover these payouts. Once again this is where the collaboration of my leadership and administration is critical. The conversations that I have on a daily basis with ESB administration is always on the behalf of membership, the sake of our union, our professions, and the students' lives that we impact each and every day.

Governor Paterson withheld state funds allocated by the state legislature for school districts.

A broad coalition of education advocates and taxpayers led by NYSUT filed suit against him saying that he acted illegally and unconstitutionally. This lawsuit has attracted major media attention across the state and we are awaiting the outcome. Due to the unique way that Long Island receives its monies, some districts were harmed more than others. Districts were forced to dip into their reserves to make ends meet for the remainder of the 2009 year. We are anxiously awaiting the outcome of this suit and cautiously watching to see how this will impact the services that we offer

Governor Paterson has stated that he may hold monies in March as he did in December that is slated to go out to school districts. The bottom line in all of this is that LI schools continue to get shortchanged with disproportional cuts to school aid. In the wake of all of this, we will be facing some very difficult budget cuts. Again, as we move forward and have more definite information, we will keep you informed.

It doesn't seem possible that we are in mid January already. It certainly doesn't seem possible that once again it is an election year for Executive Board officers and delegates. As active dues paying members, it is your responsibility to vote in these elections. The candidates that YOU elect will be serving in that capacity for the next two years. We have a phenomenal Executive Board that collaborates and makes decisions as a team for the whole membership, not just isolated situations. The commitment by the current board is 100% and all of the incumbents have chosen to seek reelection. I can assure you that our union never sleeps.

Mary Harris, who will be retiring this June, has once again, and for the last time been appointed to the position of Chairperson of the Election Committee. Mary works at the Sayville Academic Center and this will be the 4th time she has been the Chairperson. Mary epitomizes confidentiality, professionalism and does an incredible job. An election committee has been selected and they are responsible for overseeing petition validation, ballot design, ballot mailings, certifying the return ballots and, most important of all, counting the ballots returned. Your ballot will be mailed to your home in early March, via the United States Postal Service. I cannot stress how important it is that the UNION has your current home mailing address. If you made a move in the past two years since the last election and didn't update your address, please send your new address to Linda Cardone TSP@BLC East. Linda is the BEES secretary and in charge of updating our database.

President's Report

BALLOTS CANNOT be given out via interoffice mail or hand delivered. Please read the article by Mary Harris in this edition for more specific details and timelines. Thank you to committee members Kristen Ericson-Abbruzzese, Cheryl Rosalie, Diane Stewart, Angela Schultz and Mary Harris. Your long hours and dedication making sure that the BEES election procedures are followed and adhered to are greatly appreciated.

In addition, this BEACON includes a section that contains the bios of candidates running. This is your opportunity to learn about the person running for a particular office. Candidates seeking election will have an opportunity to campaign. This must be scheduled after school at the buildings/campuses. In addition, if a candidate chooses to put out a flyer introducing him/herself and stating his/her qualifications, this flyer MUST NOT be placed in BOCES staff mailboxes. This is a violation of ESB Board policy. It is the candidate's responsibility to get the flyers out to the membership. Please do not ask the building representatives to do this for you as they are not allowed to hand out campaign materials.

If you have any questions about procedures and/or requirements to run, please contact Mary Harris or check out the "BEES" constitution. As a union we do not endorse any candidates. Although we do not endorse any candidates, all active members are strongly urged to vote. Even if a position is uncontested, your vote lets the Executive Board know that you appreciate their efforts on your behalf and lets everyone else know that we have a strong union.

LONG ISLAND TEACHERS BENEVOLENT FUND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

These will once again be available to seniors graduating in June 2010, whose parents are members, and who will be attending a post secondary institution on a full time basis. We have had a total of 14 winners over the past 4 years. I expect to have the applications by the beginning of February 2010 and please remember that I must sign the application. To receive an application, please email me at Beeshivepres@aol.com. I will interoffice an application to you once I receive them (remember to include your bldg. location in your email). These applications are time sensitive so please pay attention to that date when you receive your application. Make sure you allow enough time for the application to reach me, Thelma Shaw, TSP@BLC and for me to mail it out to the LITBF.

After serious thought and contemplation, I have made the decision to run again for the office of president. These past four years have been hectic and have demanded a tremendous amount of personal time. I have met each and every challenge head on and this membership has benefitted from my 24/7 dedication. Those of you who know me or have gotten to know me, recognize my commitment and my passion for this union. I am and always have been only an e mail or phone call away. I will continue to "BEE" the best that I can be for the members that I represent and uphold the standards that I have established these past 4 years. Thank you for your support.



Executive Vice President

Pat Copertino

We have had a multitude of changes in the last few years of how we operate at ES BOCES and with the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk. Now that we are all “TECH connected” at some level or another, I thought it would be helpful to list a few of the essential tools. With all our members listed on and responsible for viewing their ESBOCES Outlook e-mail accounts; BOCES has the opportunity to cut down the cost of copied memos, manuals and notices.

These links can be accessed from your home computers if you desire. If you are not required to have access to some of the sites, consider yourself lucky. With these requirements comes time-consuming responsibilities. Meanwhile, there are Outlook classes being offered throughout the year to assist any of our members with navigating.

Resource	Address or Link	
Outlook (BOCES e-mail) Forgotten Password 244- 4226	http://mail2.esboces.org	All members, login assigned 90 day password change
Aesop Substitute Service	http://www.aesoponline.com	All members
Intranet (forms, procedures etc)	http://portal.esboces.org	All members (login and pass- word same as Outlook)
ES BOCES Website	http://esboces.org	All members + public No login required
My Learning Plan <i>Questions or concerns:</i> MLPsupport@esboces.org .	http://www.mylearningplan.com	Required members, Login: complete outlook ad- dress: jpickles@esboces.org
ClearTrack 200 (ASP's)	http://part200.esboces.org	Required Instructional Staff Logins assigned by BOCES
E-School Data (attendance, progress reports and report cards)	http://www.eschooldata.com	Required Instructional Staff Locate Eastern Suffolk BOCES and login
Digital Media Library	http://dml.esboces.org	Assigned Instructional Staff Login 1 st initial, full last name Ex: JPICKLES, Password given at training.
BOCES Instructional Tech Support instructionaltechsupport@esboces.org (repairs, assistance with hardware and connectivity)		
BEES End of the Year Evaluation feedback	Write to the BEES Evaluation Committee c/o pcoperti@esboces.org or www.patcop@optonline.net All comments welcome throughout the year	
Beacon and BEES website	www.beesbeacon.org Your source for latest information and important links for NYSUT, AFT and the retirement systems that support our members	



First Vice President

Ray Stenberg

Greetings everyone. I hope that you had a restful and enjoyable holiday and that you have returned to work rejuvenated and ready to begin the second half of the school year. I want to begin with a correction pertaining to the article that I wrote in the last Beacon. In the article, I made mention to the fact that a Tier 5 teacher who started at the age of 21 would have to work 41 years in order to retire at age 62 without penalty. At the time that I wrote the article, that was the case. However, as a result of NYSUT's hard work and negotiations, it was changed to age 57 with 30 years of service. All the rules of Tiers 1-4 remain the same.

The 55/25 deal will only be a one time opportunity and as of today, January 13th, the governor has still not signed the bill. He continues to harm us by holding back state aid to our component districts and is trying to do away with the cap on charter schools. This is big folks and I need you now more than ever to log onto the NYSUT website at www.nysut.org and flood the Governor and your elected state representatives with letters. It is a very simple and painless process and I implore you to become involved before it's too late.

February 23rd is BOCES Lobbying Day and I still need people from the BEES to come with me to Albany to lobby on behalf of BOCES. For those of you with low seniority, this is an opportunity for you to advocate for BOCES which, in turn, could result in your job being saved. BOCES will approve a professional day for you to attend and the union will buy you lunch. Ask yourself a simple question-How involved am I in the union? It's never too late to become involved to save your job or the job of a colleague.

No Charge Workman's Compensation



A teacher or paraeducator who is injured as a result of actions by BOCES students or BOCES parents, while performing his/her duties, shall not be charged any accumulated sick days which may be needed as a result of such actions, for a period of up to one year. This translates to 180 school days. This provision is present in both the yellow and the blue contract and is subject to review and development of procedures to manage usage. In addition, a committee made up of administrative and union representatives meet when any no charge workers compensation claim comes under review.

Historically, guidelines were "understood" by all parties involved with the process. However, in the past few years it has become more apparent these guidelines need to be written down. Archives of information are created for protecting the rights of our membership, now and in the future, and for a clear understanding of what a member is entitled to receive.

By March 1, 2010, guidelines will be in place that will clear up many of the questions that members have as to "what is it" and "how does it work" about No Charge Workers Compensation. An e-mail will be sent to all BEES members detailing these guidelines which will be in effect starting on March 1, 2010. If you have any questions about no charge workers compensation, please refer them to your building representative and he/she will get you the information that you need.



I thought I would review some frequently asked questions.

How can I access the sick bank?

In order to be eligible to access the sick bank you must be a member. Any Para-Educator/Sign Language Interpreter may join by contributing one sick day. Anyone using the Sick Leave Bank must first use whatever accrued sick days they have. Approved sick leave from the Bank will not begin coverage until the individual's accumulated sick leave is exhausted or the 21st working day, whichever ever occurs later. All requests to access the Sick Bank must be made in writing and must include a written statement from the attending physician, estimated time the condition will last and the starting date of the absence. This request should be sent to Human Resources, Hines Building. Please read the complete Sick Bank Leave Guidelines that starts on page 29 of our contract for more specific information.

How does seniority work?

We all have building seniority as well as agency seniority. When an involuntary transfer or reassignment of a paraeducator is necessary from a facility or program, volunteers would first be sought. Then, based on your seniority number (not the date you came to that site), the least senior paraeducator would transfer out. If it became necessary for the agency to excess paraeducators it would be done starting with the least senior person agency wide. It is important to remember that seniority is adjusted for leaves of absence with out pay. Any time you are off payroll you are not accruing days towards your seniority.

Do I lose my Personal Days if I don't use them?

No, any unused personal days rollover and convert to sick days the following year.

Do I have to pay when my class goes on a field trip?

No. We have a long standing Professional Practice Agreement that says if we are required to attend a field trip during the school year **or part of our summer school assignment** we will be reimbursed for any expenses related to admission. Lunch, souvenirs etc. would not be reimbursed. There is a Purchase Requisition Form, Reimbursement for Staff Attending Trip. This form needs to be filled out well in advance, usually by the person organizing the trip and given to the Administrator. When a receipt is required make sure you always get **individual receipts**.

Medical Documentation

When medical documentation is necessary, only the Human Resource Office should make such a request. Building principals and/or secretarial staff are not to ask for such notes; this documentation should be sent directly to Human Resources.

As you know, this is an election year and I have decided to again seek the office of Area Vice President for Para Educators/Sign Language Interpreters. I want to thank you for all the support and understanding you have given me over the last 4 years.

Without you I couldn't have done it.

In Solidarity,
Gail



I hope everyone had a chance to enjoy the holiday recess. By the time you read this the year will be halfway over and the time to elect your executive board members will be fast approaching. In these difficult times we need to show unity and strength, please take the time to know the candidates and vote.

Maternity Leave – Not

We do not get “maternity” leave. We get Sick Leave, we get Personal Leave, we get Temporary Leaves of absence with Pay (conferences/meetings/school visitations, child communicable disease, bereavement/critical illness, military, jury duty, & legal appearance), and we get Extended Leaves of Absence without Pay (military, child bearing/rearing/adoption, personal, and other).

When you go out due to a pregnancy you are out on medical disability. If you have accumulated sick or personal time you can use it to stay on payroll. How long you can be out depends on the type of delivery and/or other extenuating medical reasons. You are also eligible for unpaid child bearing/rearing leave for up to two years. There are several factors that will affect the time you are out, your return, and the continuation of your benefits and they are;

The date you are going out

The amount of sick leave you have accumulated

The type of delivery

Your eligibility for coverage under FMLA (Family Medical Leave Act)

How long you plan on being out

The date you plan on returning

If you are paying for or dropping your insurance coverage once your benefits expire

The spouse/domestic partner of the expectant mother is also eligible for child rearing leave.

They can also use their personal time. They can request conversion of sick time to personal time in the case of serious illness, or an extraordinary and/or unusual event.

To determine the type of leave and the amount of time you are entitled to you should contact human resources at least 60 days before you anticipate going out. You should also contact human resources to determine the effect of the leave on your benefits, seniority, and retirement. Basically, when you are on a paid leave you continue with your benefits (health insurance, dental, etc...) and you continue to accumulate seniority. When you are on an unpaid leave your benefits will end and you no longer accumulate seniority.

When it really needs to be there!

Bring it yourself. Don't depend on interoffice mail or the US Mail, things happen. Nothing beats hand carrying those important papers down to human resources and watching them time stamp it in for you.

It Benefits You To Know

Retiring with Health Insurance

If you are currently being covered by your spouse's health insurance, either because you have taken the health insurance sell-back waiver or because you are a paraeducator hired after July 1, 1992, and are retiring this year, you need to contact human resources two months before your retirement date and evaluate switching to health insurance coverage. Once you are retired you can not pick up health insurance through BOCES. Should your spouse lose their health insurance or pass away and you do not have your own health insurance policy you will be without coverage.

Your Retirement

Speaking of retirement, have you scheduled your retirement counseling? If you are within five years of retirement you should schedule a session by calling – 1-800-348-7298 ext 6270 if you are in the NYSTRS or – 1-866-805-0990 if you are in the NYSERS.

Dependent College Students

It's a new semester for those of you with dependents attending post-secondary institutions. I hope you didn't forget to submit those health and dental affidavits if your dependent is over 19 years old. Contact your insurance carrier(s) for the correct form.

Remember, as in everything that is important – **KEEP COPIES OF EVERYTHING**

I can be reached at beesvpcb@optonline.net or at Milliken Technical Center 244-5858.

Retiree Report

Mary L. Armbruster

I am frequently asked about NYSUT Retiree membership cards. NYSUT uses a three year cycle for issuing cards. If you retired shortly after cards were sent out, you have your active card. When the cycle comes around again you will receive a NYSUT RETIREE CARD.

NYSUT has a policy if the district you taught in has a chapter, you are required to join in order to take advantage of their benefits and endorsed programs. This policy has nothing to do with your pension. Provided you joined the chapter and keep your dues current, you are a member of NYSUT.

The chapter pays five dollars per member to Retiree Council #22. If you wish, join their e-mail database. E-mail your e-mail address, local / retiree chapter, your address and phone number to Kal Raustiala at rc22pres@optonline.net You will receive Retiree Council 22 news and information. If you don't have E-mail, call in your information to Kal 631-360-0757. Need information? Call Mary at 631-957-4366.

NOTE: 2009-2010 dues are PAST due. I hope to hear from you if you haven't already paid.



Special Education

James Beck

During this busy time of ASP writing, January regents, student staffings, IEP Review and oh yes, teaching full time, I ask that you find a member of your building practicing some random act of kindness and thank them for it. A little TLC goes a long way and given the condition of the NY State Budget, we need to maintain solidarity, strength and kindness more than ever.

Now to the housekeeping. All staff should NEVER transport a student in their own personal vehicle. Did I mention NEVER? In addition to the extreme liability issues it is unprofessional and puts the staff member in a potentially compromised position.

Only Human Resources may request documentation for an illness. Not a secretary or an administrator. It comes only from HR. All Human Resource issues must be addressed only to Mr. Michael Locantore. Please spell his name correctly!

Our first day to report to work for the 2010-2011 school year is September 2, 2010. The unusual holiday pattern means that this year our first day is BEFORE Labor Day. We do however have December 23rd added to our winter recess.

Special education seniority lists should be compiled by the end of the February break. You must e-mail me directly if you need your number. Your Building Rep may not request it for you.

Finally in the words of the old New York "Boss Tweed"..." vote early and vote often." I am of course just kidding but please, do vote. Thanks.



Related Services

Rachele Alwais

A teacher working at ESB servicing secondary students contractually has an additional Superintendent's Conference Day. This day has typically been utilized to write ASPs and input goals. This year the designated day is Tuesday, February 2nd, 2010. The reason this day was negotiated many years ago was due to the fact that secondary staff provide 30 minutes per day more student contact than their elementary counterparts.

As our agency's needs have changed and our itinerant staff work more of their time assigned to district based schools, it has become increasingly difficult to schedule this day. For this year we have clarified language to address this specific situation.

If you service ESB secondary students (middle and high school) and work more than a 6 hour day, February 2, 2010 is an additional Superintendent's Conference Day, and a non student contact day for you. You will typically use that day to write ASPs and enter goals. If 50% of a schedule incorporates district students you must see those students on February 2. You can use the ESBOCES half of your schedule for goal writing etc. If you only service DISTRICT secondary students (middle and high school) for 100% of your schedule, and work longer than a 6 hour day, you would receive February 2, 2010 as an additional Superintendents' Conference day.

This should help clear up some confusion that has arisen regarding this issue. In order to memorialize these issues, they will be brought to Teacher Pro Practice on January 25, 2010 and from there recorded as a Pro Practice agreement. Remember, Pro Practice is a forum that helps to clarify contractual or non-contractual items when they are ambiguous in nature.



SCTE Report

Joseph Postiglione

As I sit to write this article for the Beacon my thoughts immediately go to the coming school year. This is the time of year when tours start coming through the buildings. Visitors' Day and Open House are just around the corner. All we hear is doom and gloom from the state. Yes we are in for a rough ride; all the more reason to work even harder to promote our programs. We must put our best face forward. As a tour comes through your building, take a few minutes to welcome the visitors into your room.

Let them see the wonderful things we do with our students.

We have found that meeting with district SEPTA groups to be very effective. These groups tend to have vocal and involved parents as members. One of the hardest parts of setting up these meetings is getting the contact information. Cold calls to the districts offices often result in messages not returned and a dead end. **Anyone** reading this article that has any contact information on a SEPTA group from; our component districts, your home district or through a contact in your program, please forward that information to me at ICC or to MJP82@optonline.net.

We also need to think outside the box. If you have an idea for Public Relations please get it to Bette Stark at ICC or Cathy Muller at H.B. Ward. They are our representatives on the divisional public relations committee. In closing, yes we have a tough road ahead of us. Please do your part to keep our programs moving forward.



Career Education

Fran Nilsen

We are once again at the time of year when students are doing their schedules for next year. Visitors Day is 2/2/10 and followed by open house only two days later on 2/4/10. Every single person in BOCES has an interest in student enrollment. With the economy the way it is, our numbers are very important. Every year I suggest that I classroom teachers should send follow up letters. This year I am suggesting all BOCES employees pitch in. If you know a student that might be interested in any of our courses, please recommend that they visit the course and speak with the instructor.

So much goes on at our centers. Whether it be meetings, class projects, collaborate projects, student organization trips, etc... every time an outsider comes into our buildings they are overwhelmed. How can we come up with ideas to get more people into our buildings? If you have any ideas, give it to your building rep or send it to me at BTC. I will make sure it gets to the right person.

Once again I would like to remind you, If you feel there is a violation of your contract you need to follow the chain of command, by going to your building rep first. It is helpful if you photo copy the page from the contract that pertains to your situation and write a short description of what happened. Your representatives are in constant contact with me.

Election Biographies

President

Thelma Shaw (Incumbent)

I believe that my commitment and dedication as president of the BEES is apparent. I have made myself available to our membership 24 /7. I have kept the promise I made 4 years ago when running for this office for the first time. At that time, I told the members that I would return phone calls within 24 hours unless I was out of town or ill. I have done that and spoken with hundreds of our members. Unionism is a passion with me. I believe and hold dear what unions represent and what they are able to do for their members. I have been actively involved with the union for over 30 continuous years. I continue to create information archives and build a database of union terms and case histories so that our union may stay strong and flourish long after I have retired.

In the 4 years that I have been president, we have successfully negotiated the blue contract, in which I was the Chief negotiator, we have held onto many benefits and clarified and enhanced contract language. We are a strong and respected union with a committed Executive Board and Building Representative Council. Once again I would consider it an honor and privilege to be re elected as President of the "BEES" for a 3rd term.

Executive Vice President

Patricia R. Copertino (Incumbent)

I am currently a curriculum teacher for ESBOCES and have spent 29 years as an educator, 19 at ES BOCES, 20 in the classroom. Positions have included elementary (ED, Mixed Ability), Tourettes program, High school resource and self-contained classrooms, Summer Coordinator/Supervisor, SETRC trainer, Staff developer, District consultant and presenter.

Related Professional Experience: Career-long involvement in committees and activities that promote school improvement, curriculum development, behavior management, leadership and excellence in teaching.

Union Participation: 4 years as Executive Vice President, BEES evaluation committee, Budget committee chairperson, Building representative, Building Representative Trainer, AFT and NYSUT delegate, Elementary Divisional SDM, Central SDM, Special Education Task Force, Teacher Pro Practice committee, Constitution committee, Negotiations committee, Negotiations Team as well as representing the constituents at ED 22 Meetings, NYSUT Representative Assembly, The AFT Convention, BOCES Leadership conferences and NYSUT peer review

First Vice President

Ray Stenberg (Incumbent)

For the last four years I have been honored to serve as the First Vice-President of your union, the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk. As a member of the Executive Board, I am proud to be part of a team of professionals who are dedicated and cognizant of the needs of its members. We are a cohesive group of educators who always try to do the best we can for our members and to make sure that their rights are not violated and that their benefits remain stable.

In Albany, I represent you as a member of the Committee of 100, the NYSUT political action team and I recently began my second term as a delegate to the New York State Teachers Retirement System. In addition, I have been a NYSUT delegate and hope to be re-elected to that position once again. On a national level, I represent you as a delegate to both the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association. I am very passionate about our union and would like to continue to work on your behalf.

Treasurer

Michelle Tinter (Incumbent)

I have worked as a paraeducator at the Westhampton Beach Learning Center for the past 9 years, as well as a para-union representative prior to my two year term as treasurer for 3 years. Along with the experiences I have gained as the treasurer for the past two years, I draw on my past experience working for a Fortune 500 company on Wall Street .

I was the assistant to the Chief Financial Officer, as well as the executive vice president of the foreign investments department. After attending the New York Institute of Finance, I worked hand-in-hand with individual brokers for large investment firms. Leaving my employment on Wall Street, I worked for a large insurance agency on Long Island. As a liaison for over 2000 clients, my duties consisted of accounts payable and receivables, as well as bi-weekly payroll.

My past experiences add to my continued dedication to aid the BEES members as the incumbent for treasurer on the executive board. I would be honored to represent you as treasurer for a second term on the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk executive board.

Recording Secretary

Linda Bufalo (Incumbent)

I have been an active union leader for the last 7 years, and a Para-Educator at the Westhampton Beach Learning Center for 15 years. It has been an honor to serve our membership as Recording Secretary for the BEES Executive Board. The knowledge I have acquired by working with an experienced and professional team has been invaluable. Serving the local as a strong union leader has always been my goal. As a building representative for the Para-Educators for 5 years and an Executive Officer for 2 years, I have participated on various committees and attended workshops to enhance my knowledge of the union and the structure of ESBOCES. Those committees and workshops include:

Representative council and paraeducator union meetings, building level and departmental shared decision making committees, paraeducator professional practice committee, AFT SRP (National Conferences), NYSUT SRP (State Conferences), Contract Negotiations Sub-committee, and attending annual NYSUT workshops. I also currently hold the recording secretary position on the executive board of the Long Island Council Of Paraprofessionals. LICOP is an organization supported by NYSUT, representing paraeducator locals across Suffolk County. I hope to represent *our* organization for another term. Thank you for your consideration.

Membership Secretary

Marje Strawbridge (Incumbent)

This is my 20th year with BOCES; right now I am working at WHBLC@Aquebogue. I have served as a paraeducator representative for five years, as the social chairperson for two years, and as the membership secretary for the past four years. I also am a member of Divisional SDM and an AFT and NYSUT delegate attending ED meetings and participation in representative assembly conferences. I have had the pleasure of attending NYSUT and AFT SRP conventions.

Through the years I have always tried to be involved and have been an active member of our union. My past and present experience and my willingness to serve you will hopefully get your vote as membership secretary and as an AFT and NYSUT delegate.
Thank you and please remember to vote.

Area Vice President for Para-Educators

Gail Reissman (Incumbent)

I am seeking re-election as area vice president for paraeducators, a position I have held for 4 years. I am also running for NYSUT and AFT delegate positions. As the area vice president for the paraeducators I presently have the honor to represent you on the central SDM the CTE SDM , the wellness committee, the health and safety committee and the Paraeducator professional practice committee. I also am a member of the ESBOCES awards committee and am currently an AFT and NYSUT delegate

I have also been a member of the contract negotiating team, the BEES budget committee and the BEES constitution committee. I have previously served you as the BEES Recording Secretary and building representative at the Wing Learning Center and the Sayville Academic Center. I have attended BOCES Leadership, AFT SRP, and NYSUT SRP conferences and NYSUT health and safety conferences

I have worked as a teachers aide or individual aide since 1986 at Wing learning Center, Terryville Learning Center and for the last 16 years, Sayville Academic Center. I am also president of the Long Island Council of Paraprofessionals, an organization of paraeducator leaders from Suffolk County. I would be honored to have your support as I seek re-election as the area vice president for paraeducators.

Area Vice President for Special Education

Jim Beck (Incumbent)

Twenty two years ago I joined Eastern Suffolk BOCES as a teacher assistant in the Sagamore program at Wood Road. I held that position for about a year and was then appointed as a full time special education teacher. Three years later I became the building representative at Wood Road and held that position for four years. I took some time off from Union activities and was elected as the building representative at BAC almost four years ago.

Several months ago I was chosen and appointed by the BEES Executive Board and approved by the building representative council to fill the remainder of the term for Shelly Bernstein. Since that time I have been the acting special education area vice president. Some of the committees and groups that I currently work or have worked on are: An original member of the ASP users group, special education task force, Divisional SDM, BOCES safety committee, and many BAC building committees. I am the past Chief Examiner of the GED and I have attended BOCES Lobby Day for the last four years. I am now running for a full two year term.

My approach to things tends to be direct, practical, and concise. I view Shelly Bernstein as an excellent role model. My friends, the next few years in education will, not to understate it, be extremely challenging. Experience and tempered judgment will be critical. I think our Union needs solid, veteran, positive people to take on these challenges to help keep our union strong. I am ready, willing, and eager to continue working to face those challenges. I hope I can count on your support and allow me to continue to be of service to you for the next two years.

Thank you.

Area Vice President for Career and Technical Education

Fran Nilsen (Incumbent)

I am once again running for the position of area vice president. This will be my third term. I had previously been the building rep for BTC for four years. When Mike Vagner was getting ready to retire, he started to groom me for the position of vice president. I have been employed by BOCES for 20 years. I first started as an assistant in carpentry. Then I moved into teaching the drafting class. I am currently teaching carpentry and have two certifications, in Carpentry and Drafting. I have been tenured three times. I hope to continue to serve you as your area vice president for CTE.

Area Vice President for Itinerant Teachers

Rachele Alwais (Incumbent)

I began my career with Eastern Suffolk BOCES upon college graduation in 1976. I was hired to the position I currently hold Itinerant Teacher of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

I have also been actively working as your vice president of itinerant teachers protecting your rights, upholding the BEES contract, bringing issues to the executive board and to BOCES administrators as they arise. Interviews of new staff members have become a cooperative effort with teacher representation from the particular area. I attend executive board, building representative council, special education S.D.M., local EAP and NYSUT. Ed 22 meetings. I also attend leadership conferences in Albany, as they are extremely informative, especially on current and up to date State Education department topics. I have attended the Albany Lobby Day in the past, and found it informative and educational.

My years as a building representative taught me the basics of the BEES and our contracts. My years as itinerant vice president and membership on the BEES executive board have allowed me to grow as a team member and a leader while building relationships based on mutual respect. I am proud of my accomplishments thus far and with your support I look forward to continuing to serve in my position for another two years.

Area Vice President for Special Career Education

Joseph Postiglione (Incumbent)

It has been a privilege to serve as the area vice president for special career education for the past two years. I continue to be involved in committees and initiatives that help promote the programs in special career education. While heading the building public relations committee over the past two years we have hosted several SEPTA meetings at ICC. Each of these meetings was very well received. One SEPTA group was so impressed by their tour of the program they asked to come back for a second meeting to get more of their parents and children involved.

I have continued to build a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation with the administrations at ICC and H.B. Ward as well as BOCES upper administration. As always, I find it hard not to be outspoken when issues arise that I feel will have an impact on special career education. At this time I ask for your continued support as I seek reelection to the position of area vice president for special career education.

Area Vice President for SAS

Lisa Reilly (Incumbent)

Well it's that time of the year that the union asks all our fellow constituents who they want to represent them for the next two years. I am presently working at the Jefferson Academic Center. I have previously been the area rep in SAS for the last 16 years. Prior to being the area rep I was the building rep for the student assistance counselors at SAS.

During that time I had handled many issues that pertained to the social workers, psychologists and guidance counselors. I have met with various administrators and have been involved with many situations involving hiring, grievances, and unfair work practices. It is your turn to choose again for the right candidate to represent you.

Contractual Benefits Officer

Bob Love (Incumbent)

I am running again for Contractual Benefits Officer. I've been a BOCES employee for over 20 years. I've been in the classroom as an academic teacher, vocational teacher, paraprofessional, and currently work as a CTE academic teacher.

Over the last two decades I have represented you, our members, as a building representative, an area vice president, and for the past six years as the contractual benefits officer. As the Benefits Officer I have been able to help and advise several of you personally, some of you through the various seminars the union has conducted, and hopefully, many of you through my articles in the BEACON.

I currently sit on the safety committee and the child nutrition wellness committee. I have attended, on the behalf of the BEES, NYSUT's Health and Safety conferences, NYSUT's Member Benefits conferences and the NYSUT's BOCES leadership conferences.

Candidates for AFT Delegates

Jim Beck
Evelyn Bricka
Bob Love
Gail Reissman
Thelma Shaw*
Ray Stenberg*
Marje Strawbridge

* The President and Vice-President are automatic AFT delegates

Candidates for NYSUT Delegates

Jim Beck
Evelyn Brika
Pat Copertino*
Bob Love
Gail Reissman
Thelma Shaw*
Ray Stenberg
Marje Strawbridge

*The President and the Executive Vice-President are automatic NYSUT delegates

BEES

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Executive Vice President ... Pat Copertino
Treasurer..... Michelle Tinter
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Recording Secretary.....Linda Bufalo
Benefits Officer.....Bob Love

Area Vice Presidents

Career Ed..... Fran Nilsen
Itinerants.....Rachele Alwais
Para Educators.....Gail Reissman
SAS.....Lisa Reilly
Special Education.....Jim Beck
Special Career Ed.....Joseph Postiglione

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