

**Volume 36 Issue 3  
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**AFT Local 3037/ NYSUT Local 22-220**

# *The BEES Beacon*

**BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk**



*From the Lighthouse  
in the East  
to the Lighthouse  
in the West*



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# President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

## Union Strong



Greetings BEES members. Spring has arrived, and with it the anticipation of the end of the school year and summer arriving not long after the first flowers begin to bloom. Although the complications resulting from pandemic were less challenging this year, there have been other obstacles and circumstances that have taken their place.

As an agency, we have continued to experience unprecedented amounts of turnover in some of our highest administrative positions. As you can imagine, this makes day-to-day operations more difficult for those who remain and continue to do their best to keep things moving as smoothly as possible. I am thankful for those individuals in HR who are putting in extra effort and time to do their best to stabilize the bridges we are trying to cross.

I am also thankful to each and every one of you for your patience and support as we, as union leaders, have had to pivot and reset at many points during the course of the school year. The BEES Executive Board is aware that there have been many questions regarding the negotiation of the Yellow contract as well as the upcoming negotiations for the Blue contract next year. We have done our best to be as transparent as possible during this time, and we hope that you have felt supported and well represented.

I am happy to say that very shortly, we will be presenting information regarding the new Yellow contract MOU (Memorandum of Understanding). In order to participate in any informational meetings regarding the Yellow contract and the voting process to ratify the MOU, you must be a dues paying BEES member. If you are a new employee and you have not signed up for your union membership/benefits yet, please find your building representative, and ask them to sign you up. If you are already a BEES member, please make sure you are signed up for our texting system, join our group FB page and stay connected with your building representative so you know when the informational meetings will take place. We will be using the same electronic voting system used last year to vote for Executive Board members again to ratify the MOU in the near future. Please make sure that we have your non-BOCES email on file so you can participate in the ratification vote. If you are unsure if we have your email, you can sign up for our email list on our webpage at [www.beesbeacon.org](http://www.beesbeacon.org) We look forward to sharing more information with you in the upcoming weeks.



# President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

## Union Strong



We are looking forward to celebrating our retirees at the BEES Retiree Honorarium on June 7th at Lands' End. Please be sure to RSVP to our social chairperson, Danielle Ibba at SHS.

Whether retirement is coming up soon, or you have some more time to go, you should create a profile with either NYSTRS (TA's and Blue contract) or NYSLRS (Aides). The retirement plans administered by the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement Systems guarantee members a monthly lifetime pension benefit when they retire. The benefit you receive depends on your specific retirement plan and membership tier. If you are an aide, you can look up your plan using the "Find Your NYSLRS Retirement Plan Publication" tool at [bit.ly/plan-publication](https://bit.ly/plan-publication).

Your pension benefit amount also depends on the payment option you choose at retirement. You can choose from several options.

For example:

- The Single Life Allowance provides the maximum amount payable during your lifetime. However, if you choose this option, you cannot designate a beneficiary to receive monthly pension payments after you die.
- Other payment options, such as Joint Allowance options, give you a reduced monthly benefit, but provide a continuing payment to a beneficiary when you die. The amount you and your beneficiary receive is based on the percentage of your pension you wish to leave for your beneficiary, as well as your and your beneficiary's birth dates.

You can estimate your pension in Retirement Online. Enter different retirement dates, earnings and service credit totals to see how your choices affect your potential benefit and pension payment options. Sign in to Retirement Online at [bit.ly/RO-sign-in](https://bit.ly/RO-sign-in). From your Account Homepage, go to the "My Account Summary" section and click the "Estimate my Pension Benefit" button.

# President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

## Union Strong



As TA's and Blue contract members, you are part of the NYSTRS retirement system. Through your MyNYSTRS account, you can do a variety of tasks from the comfort of your own home, including updating your name and address, changing your beneficiaries, submitting prior service claims, estimating your pension or filing a retirement application.

The first step in setting up an account is visiting the MyNYSTRS registration page at [secure.nystrs.org/MyNYSTRS/register](https://secure.nystrs.org/MyNYSTRS/register). You'll need your seven-digit NYSTRS employee identification number, the last four digits of your Social Security Number, your date of birth, a personal email and a cell phone number to set up an account, so make sure you have those handy.

Your NYSTRS ID is unique to the retirement system. It's different from your school district ID, your NYSUT union ID, or any other school-related identification numbers you've received.

It is a good practice to periodically check your retirement account. If you have questions, you can reach out to our benefits officer, Nick DeBlanco.

Lastly, I encourage you to take an active role in participating in your local school budget and Board of Education votes on May 16th. Your vote is important for the future of your local school district. For more information on the role of your district's Board of Education and what to look for in a good candidate, please take a look at our "Politics in Education" article.

I wish you all an enjoyable spring season!

In unity,

In Solidarity,

*Asha*

Article resource: <https://www.nysut.org/news>







# Politics in Education



## Your Local School Board Election

*Before you vote, find out here what a school board does and what to look for in candidates. By Meline Toumani, GreatSchools.net Staff*

Getting involved with your local board of education doesn't have to mean running your own campaign for a seat or taking detailed notes at every single meeting. The first simple step—one that every registered voter should take very seriously—is voting in the election of school board members. Read on to find out how school boards work, what they do, how they can be effective and what you should know about the candidates before heading to the polls.

### **What Is a Board of Education?**

School board members make up the largest body of elected officials in the United States. We entrust them to set the policies of our most treasured institutions: our public elementary, middle and high schools. Every district has a board of education, and boards generally meet every month in meetings that are open to the public. These gatherings range from tame rubber-stamping sessions to intense, provocative discussions with the community where controversial issues are debated and landmark decisions are made.

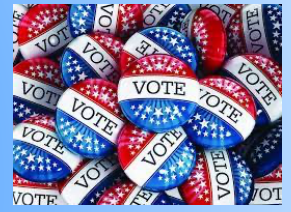
School boards are nonpartisan. In most districts, members serve four-year terms, and terms are staggered so seats don't become open all at once. In general, to run for school board, you have to be at least 18 years old, a citizen of the state, a resident of the district, a registered voter and eligible under the state constitution to be elected to public office.

In most cases, a school district employee can't be a board member in that district. This means no teacher, principal, librarian, custodian or anyone else that works in a school in the district can serve on the school board, unless they resign from the employed position.

School districts are complex corporations; they're often the largest employers in a community and the decisions they make reach far, affecting jobs, resources and most importantly, the education of all children.



# Politics in Education



## Your Local School Board Election

### What Do They Do?

Somewhere in between the agendas, public comment sessions and resolutions, school boards make a number of important decisions. School boards establish a vision for the community's schools. They have to set up and maintain an effective, efficient organizational structure for the district that lets the superintendent and administrators manage the schools, teachers teach and students learn.

They are responsible for hiring and evaluating a superintendent, evaluating and adopting policies that affect all schools in the district, serving as a judicial and appeals body when conflicts go unresolved, monitoring and adjusting district finances, and managing the collective bargaining process in the district. A school board has a symbolic role as well. The behavior it shows off in the meeting room, the rapport among school board members and the relationships that members have with teachers and administrators in the district all add up to the climate of public education in a community.

Whether healthy or dysfunctional, a school board has a heavy influence on the spirit that characterizes a community's impression of its school system.

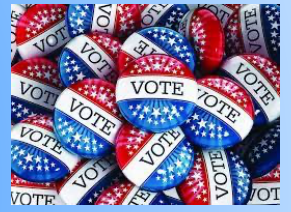
### How Can I Tell if My School Board Is Doing a Good Job?

By attending a few school board meetings, you'll learn firsthand what school boards do. Call your district office to find out where and when meetings are held. Once you've observed your school board in action, you'll be prepared to ask the following questions:

- How does the school board make decisions? Do the members function as predictable, single-issue advocates, or do they approach each decision with an open mind? Do they seem to make strategic choices for the well-being of the district? Strong decision-making requires analysis, the balancing of needs and concerns, and the ability to see the long-term implications of an action.
- How's the team spirit? Does the board exhibit a healthy group dynamic, or is it a parade of egos marching single-file? Do members show respect and trust for each other, and for the operating rules of the board?
- Is the board's authority well defined? The classic challenges of management don't skip over your board of education. There's a delicate balance between the board's act of choosing a strong chief executive (the superintendent) and letting him or her lead the way and the board's tendency to get involved with many levels of decision-making.
- Does the board understand the community? One of the most difficult parts of school governance is creating a strong relationship with the public. An effective board knows and respects its community, and encourages the community's trust in its school system.



# Politics in Education



## Your Local School Board Election

### What Should I Look for in a School Board Candidate?

First of all, you should think about the issues that are important to you in your school district. Are you concerned about student transportation, textbook adoption, funding for extracurricular activities, new curriculum standards and/or construction of new school facilities? What's your hot button? You'll want to find out where the candidates stand on issues that are important to you. You might also look for the following qualities:

- The ability to work well with a team and support group decisions, along with an understanding that the board sets a climate for the entire district
  - A desire to work toward a stronger relationship between the district and the public it serves
  - A keen eye toward serving the needs of all students, regardless of their abilities and backgrounds
  - A professional, poised demeanor and respectful, respectable behavior
  - Respect for diverse points of view
  - Commitment to the time and energy required each week for meetings, phone calls, conversations, visits to schools, and professional development seminars and workshops
  - Knowledge about district policies, guidelines, needs, challenges and strengths
- At the heart of it all, members of a district's board of education must believe, unequivocally, in the value of public education. They must be dedicated to serving and teaching all children. They must believe in the democratic process and understand that their role is to act strategically, in line with the interests of the entire school community.

# School Budget Vote 5/16/23

# Executive Vice President - Al Rios



## Your Union Member Benefits

As we begin the spring season, I am sure many of our members are ready for warmer weather, sunny days and dare I say planning for summer. I find it hard to believe that we are approaching the finish line for the 2022-2023 school year, it feels like just last month I was putting up “Welcome Back to School” posters, and preparing for parent conferences and now I am thinking about supplies I need to order for next year as well as preparing my students for the Regents exam in June but, I am not complaining.

Since it is about this time we start to think about our plans for the summer or maybe you are looking at purchasing new appliances or maybe even a new automobile, I thought I would talk about NYSUT Member Benefits and the programs and services that are available to NYSUT members. Are you taking advantage of member benefits?

Have you ever heard the slogan, “Membership has its privileges?” As a member of the union, not only are you a supportive team member of our local union but you are also part of a federation of more than 1,325 local unions representing more than 650,000 members statewide. Your status as a NYSUT member offers you access to numerous endorsed group benefit plans offered by NYSUT Member Benefits.

The group buying power of over 650,000 Members assists NYSUT to contract with reputable companies at competitive prices that can save you money.

The benefits that are available to Union members are split into different categories:

- Insurance coverage.
- Legal and Financial services.
- Dining and Shopping Discounts.
- Travel and Tours.
- Home energy.
- Health and safety.



# Executive Vice President - Al Rios



## Your Union Member Benefits

For a more in-depth and comprehensive look at all the programs that are available to union members go to, [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org). or you can contact NYSUT Member Benefits with any questions that you may have at 800-626-8101 weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.. You will need your NYSUT ID number to participate in these programs.

Additional free member benefits programs that NYSUT is proud to offer include;

- **The Peer Support Line:** Contact the Peer Support Line at 844-444-0152.

When stressful situations arise, look to the Peer Support Line to speak with trained peer support specialists who will lend a caring ear and connect you with community resources that can make a difference for you and your family.

The Peer Support Line is a partnership between NYSUT Social Services, Member Benefits, and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care.

- **Credit Card Consolidation & Debt Management**

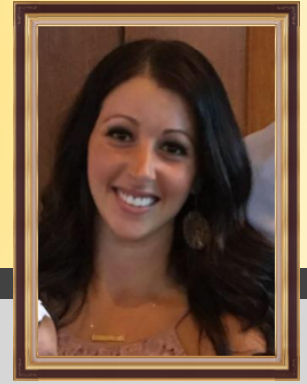
All NYSUT members (both in-service and retiree) are eligible to receive a **free, no obligation debt consultation** with a **Cambridge Credit Counseling** certified counselor. Cambridge Credit Counseling has been assisting consumers with eliminating debt for more than 20 years and features nationally-certified counselors who will help you determine the most appropriate course of action for your specific debt situation. To Speak With a Cambridge Certified Counselor: Call toll-free **888-254-0398** for any other credit or debt-related issue to speak with a certified counselor.

If you take a minute to sign into the NYSUT website and search for Member benefits you will see the programs and services are wide and varied. I hope some of the information provided helps you out and I hope you take a look at the money saving opportunities that are available to you as a union member.

Al Rios



# Executive Vice President - Amanda Pica



## Better Together

Hello BEES members! We are past the halfway mark, warm weather and sunshine is ahead! I have seen a lot of new faces around the agency so I thought it would important to remind all new and current members how important it is to be part of our union...

### **The Importance of being a Union Member**

1. A constant lifeline for questions and concerns. This is the most important as the BEES UNION and the agency work collaboratively together for a positive outcome during difficult situations.
2. Support with professional advancement within the agency.
3. Negotiating new contracts as well as making sure all of our current policies and procedures are followed.
4. Someone to be your voice of reason when you feel like you are not being heard.
5. Endless Member Benefits from NYSUT and AFT (please see below)
6. Protect your rights and benefits.

**For more contact information and up to date news please visit:**

<http://www.beesbeacon.org/>

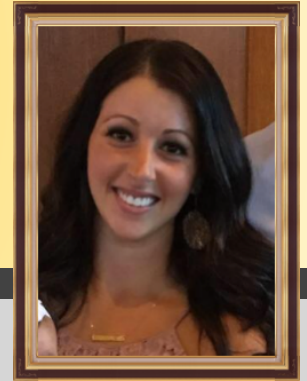
Join our text blast ... TEXT BEES to 33222

### **NYSUT and AFT MEMBER BENEFIT INFORMATION**

<https://www.nysut.org/members/benefits-and-services>

<https://www.aft.org/member-benefits>

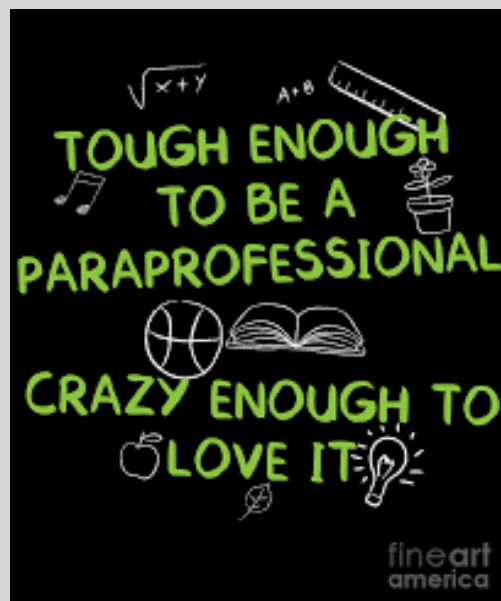
# Executive Vice President - Amanda Pica



## Better Together

I want to remind all members as we approach May and June our health insurance deductions for July and August will be taken out of each pay check, I encourage all members to budget accordingly since we did see a big increase in our premium. If you have any questions or concerns please reach out to your building representative. I hope you all enjoyed the spring break and had time to recharge and relax. Thank you for sticking with your UNION!

Amanda





CHECK OUT ALL YOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP HAS TO OFFER!

## When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvement
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.



When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org). There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the “Shopping, Travel & Personal” section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](https://memberbenefits.nysut.org) or calling 800-626-8101.

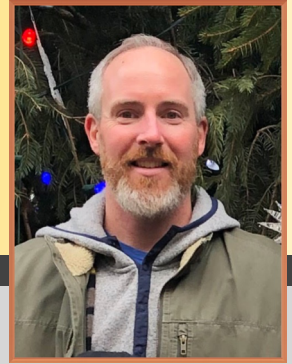


For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Mar-Apr 2023



# First Vice President - Keith Flynn



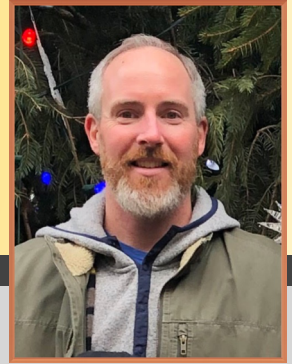
## Your Voice, Your Union

It's that time of year again where there is more daylight, the prospects of warm weather and the itch to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. The spring recess is right around the corner and when we return, it's the home stretch towards summer. With that in mind, we will have the opportunity to celebrate our colleagues who will be retiring. On June 7th, we will have the opportunity to celebrate as a union at the Retiree Honorarium! As my son Brayden likes to say, Let's Go!!!!

Unfortunately, this year our Eastern Suffolk BOCES staff and students did not get a chance to participate in Advocacy Day. There were 2 attempts to bring the staff and students to Albany, but the weather did not cooperate. It's really a fantastic experience for the students to see the state capitol and to meet, advocate and share their educational journey with the state lawmakers. I encourage any BEES member to participate in the future, because our students do a wonderful job advocating all the great things that you do, every single day! Be ready for March 2024!

On March 8th and 9th, I was able to participate in the Committee of 100. This committee is comprised of delegates all over N.Y.S. that meet with the state lawmakers in Albany, to advocate for NYSUT's legislative issues of focus with the proposed state budget. Some of the NYSUT legislative issues of focus that were discussed in these meetings were: to fully fund the 2.7 billion in Foundation Aid, giving local communities a voice in the charter school approval process, updating BOCES salary aid, to pause the APPR process for this school year and restoring local control or creating a new process, investing in New York's public higher education, making employee contributions equitable across all pension tiers (Fixing Tiers 5 and 6) and having a universal school meals program. Also, Governor Hochul wants a \$20 million dollar increase in investments for career technical education. That's good news for Eastern Suffolk BOCES and all the outstanding CTE programs that we offer to our component school districts. There was a lot of support for these initiatives by both political parties. We should have an idea of what the budget should look like by the April 1st deadline.

# First Vice President - Keith Flynn



## Your Voice, Your Union

As we get closer to May, please get out and vote for your school budget. One of the best opportunities to show our voice is to get out and vote. The proposed average school budget increase on Long Island is an average of 2.2%. That could be affected depending on if Foundation Aid will be fully restored. The N.Y.S. budget deadline of April 1st, is quickly approaching.

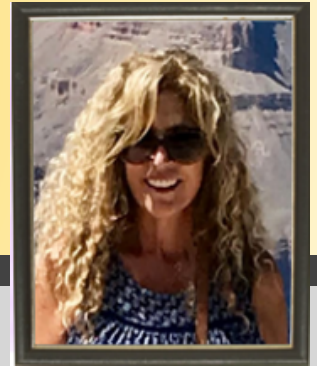
Lastly, please assist all our new union members with educating them on all the great member benefits. We forget sometimes, but it could be as simple as the hours in the workday, sick leave, professional advancement, biweekly paycheck, your pension, or the Member Discounts page on NYSUT's website. As the NYSUT mission states, "We are stronger together, when working together."

Have a wonderful rest of the school year!

Keith



# Area VP for Para Educators - Angela Ritchie



## Amazing SRPs

Dear Fellow BEES Members,

Happy Spring!

It seems like this year is flying by and we will soon be planning our end of the year events. Please reach out to your Building Reps. if you have any concerns or questions in regard to contractual issues.

Many times, issues will arise, however, unless it pertains to our contractual rights, I would advise members to seek out their building mentors. I know many members are not aware of whether it's a union issue or a mentor issue, and I would like to clarify the difference.

### **Union issues fall under contractual rights explained in our contract.**

For example:

Salary/payroll reduction, Grievances, Leaves (medical, education, child rearing, sick leave), Personal injury- workman's comp, Retirement and retirement benefits, Insurance, Educational incentives, Evaluations, Attendance at meetings, Work day, Copies of Agreements, Disciplinary interviews- Representation by Union Rep.

### **You can access the Yellow CBA online on the ESBOCES website under the "For Staff - Human Resources" section.**

### **Mentor issues can be confidential and can extend into personal allegations.**

For example:

Building Related issues, Placement situations, Mediations between staff members when there are unresolved issues. When any member feels uncomfortable in any non-contractual situation they should seek out their building mentor.

I hope this information is helpful.

Thank you for sticking with the Union.

Angela



## Union Strong All Day Long



Did you know that New York State estimates that over 180,000 teachers will need to be hired over the next ten years? As stated on the New York State Education Department website: The New York State Board of Regents [voted to establish](#) the Students with Disabilities (All Grades) certificate effective September 28, 2022. The new certificate permits individuals to teach students with disabilities in pre-Kindergarten through grade 12 in New York State public schools. The Board of Regents also approved revisions to the [extension](#) to teach certain subjects to students with disabilities in grades 5-9 or grades 7-12 for eligible special education teachers.

The key changes to the regulations, and the implementation timeline for the changes, are described below and in the [presentation](#) to the Board of Regents. For additional information about the SWD (All Grades) certificate, please see the [SWD \(All Grades\) Certificate Summary and Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

### Students with Disabilities (SWD) Certificates

- **SWD (All Grades) Certificate Requirements.** The certificate types, pathways, and requirements for the SWD (All Grades) certificate title will be listed on the [Search Certification Requirements webpage](#) in early 2023. When this update occurs, the application for this new certificate will also be available in the [TEACH system](#).
- **Current SWD certificates.** Individuals who hold a SWD certificate in a grade band (e.g., Birth-Grade 2, Grades 1-6, Grades 5-9, Grades 7-12) or Permanent Special Education certificate will not be required to obtain the new SWD (All Grades) certificate by the Department, as those certificates will continue to be recognized in the future. They can choose to pursue the SWD (All Grades) certificate, if they wish.
  - SWD (Birth-Grade 2) certificates will continue to be issued.
  - Individuals will be able to apply for the SWD (Grades 1-6) and/or SWD (Grades 7-12) certificates through the individual evaluation pathway prior to September 1, 2023, and will be eligible for these certificates provided that they meet all requirements for the certificate prior to September 1, 2026.
  - SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) certificates will be phased out in the future. Specifically, the Department will no longer issue certificates in the SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) certificate titles, other than for the Professional certificate and reissuance of an Initial certificate, with an effective date that begins after September 1, 2030. The Professional certificate and reissuance of an Initial certificate in these certificate titles will continue to be issued.
  - SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) certificates can continue to receive a time extension after September 1, 2030.



# Area VP for Special Education - Patti Richards

## Union Strong All Day Long



### New York State Registered SWD Programs

- **SWD (All Grades) Programs.** New York State institutions of higher education can apply to register SWD (All Grades) programs beginning September 28, 2022. The registration requirements for this program are posted on the [Office of College and University Evaluation \(OCUE\) website](#).
- **SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) Programs.** The Department will no longer register programs leading to the current SWD (Grades 1-6) and SWD (Grades 7-12) certificates on or after October 1, 2022. For institutions that have existing SWD (Grades 1-6) and/or SWD (Grades 7-12) programs, the programs will be discontinued on or after September 1, 2029.
- **SWD (Birth-Grade 2) Programs.** SWD (Birth-Grade 2) programs can continue to be offered and created. However, these programs must now also focus on developing comprehensive knowledge, understanding, and skills for teaching students with disabilities who are culturally and linguistically diverse.
- Subject Area Extension
- **Special Education Teachers.** For the [extension](#) to teach certain subjects to students with disabilities in grades 5-9 or grades 7-12, eligible special education teachers can obtain the extension by completing 12 semester hours in the subject area or passing the content specialty test (CST) in the subject area of the extension beginning September 28, 2022.
- **Registered SWD Programs.** Programs leading to the extension to teach certain subjects to students with disabilities in grades 7-12 will now require at least 12, instead of 18, semester hours in the subject area of the extension beginning September 28, 2022

# Area VP for Special Education - Patti Richards

## Union Strong All Day Long



If you have questions about certifications, reach out to the Regional Certification Office at 631-687-3020 or email them at [teachercert@esboces.org](mailto:teachercert@esboces.org) to set up an appointment with a specialist.

As educators in ESBOCES, we have so much from our caseloads including but not limited to, data collection, implementation of curriculum, recurrent behaviors, returning phone calls, attending meetings, completing professional development, etc.. Many are feeling very overwhelmed, please remember that although this is our job, it is essential to take care of your mental health. You are only expected to perform your duties during the normal workday, you are not expected to answer calls or emails after hours.

Please attend your union meetings to understand how the Executive Board is working diligently for you. If you have questions, reach out to your building rep and they will guide you where to go. Get to know your contract, understanding what the union can and can't do.

In Solidarity,

*Patti*



# Area VP for Itinerants/SAS - Kristin Ericson Abbruzzese



## Don't Be Afraid to Ask

HAPPY SPRING!!! Spring is all about new beginnings and transformations; it's a season that symbolizes starting fresh and starting over. After months of cold temperatures that often results in many of us feeling the winter blues, spring reawakens us and our surrounding environment, bringing everything back to life. It's a time when we hopefully can step outside during our work day for some fresh air maybe on the playground or courtyard with our students. The fresh air can be a boost to both your day and your students' day. Kind of a recharging!! Hopefully many of you are done or almost done with writing your annual reports and testing your students. Hopefully your CSE's are going well and you have seen some positive growth in your students over the last several months. I know I can get lost in the day to day schedule however, when I think about each of my students while writing their PLEPs and summaries it is truly nice to reflect on how far they have come. I know the day to day responsibilities seem to expand which makes the days fly by but please try to stay on top of your daily paperwork.

Unfortunately life sometimes throws us a curve ball which may distract us from work however, when I talk with people during these difficult times and hear they are 2-3 months behind in session notes and/or their Google schedule I am sure that the last thing on their mind is catching up on work. We cannot control life but we have control over keeping up with our daily paperwork. I live it with you; it is not easy sometimes but it is even harder playing catch up when you fall weeks behind. Please reach out to your coworkers to see if they have any tips or pointers on how they try to keep up with their paperwork. We all need to be supportive of one another especially people just starting their careers with ESBOCES.

Sometimes people are intimidated to approach their coworkers out of concern they may be looked down upon or talked about to others if they did not know how to do something or felt overwhelmed.







# Contractual Benefits Officer - Nick DeBlanco



## It Benefits You to Know

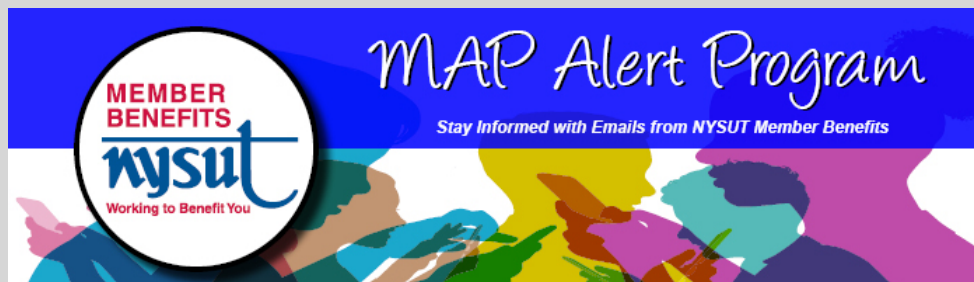
Happy spring fellow BEES members. The next few months will be full of retirement parties and celebrations. It may not be your turn yet but it's never too early to take some time to reorganize and reallocate your retirement savings plan. One of the great tools at your disposal is the financial planning program at NYSUT. A reasonable yearly fee puts you in touch with a live person for a set amount of sessions that will give you specific insight into how, when and why you should be making changes to or sticking with your current plan. The NYSUT plan and the administrator of that plan sell no investment devices nor work on commission. They are strictly a financial plan that you can bring to any commercial trading platform or retirement account and implement that plan with confidence. Stacey Braun and Associates are the financial counseling program facilitators and can provide a great start towards getting you financially straight and on the path to a great retirement. If you haven't done so already go to [nysut.org](http://nysut.org) and login or sign up. The financial counseling program is just one of many opportunities available.

When you visit the NYSUT website you will see tabs on the top for insurance, learning, shopping, travel, personal, legal, financial etc. There is a ton of information and some of it is exactly tailored to your lifestyle.

Did you know that your union membership comes with so many perks? Try signing up for the member alert program (MAP); this will send relevant emails or other alerts about the benefits that matter most to you.

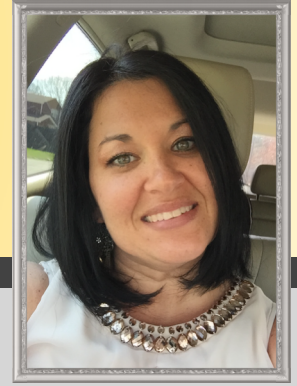
Thank you for being a member!

Nick



# Social Chair - Danielle Ibba-Morabito

## Let's BEE Social



LET'S PARTY TOGETHER.....

Another year has come to a close, but not until we have had on 2023 Honorarium. "LET'S PARTY" We are so excited to see everyone in person again on June 7, 2023. @ 4:30pm, Lands' End in Sayville NY.

Please ask your union reps for more details or find fliers on our BEES BEACON website. PLEASE, PLEASE do not forget to RSVP by May 12th.

Another great perk is that Gateway Playhouse has given BEES MEMBERS a 10% discount on tickets in their 2023 Season. Using the code GATEWAYBEES. For the fliers please check out our BEES UNION FB group page or the Union website <http://www.beesbeacon.org/> there is always information that might be useful there.

Welfare: The loss of a loved one is an emotional time, and one of the worst things we may go through in life. It is with that thought that we would like to reach out to our families in need in a timely manner. There are guidelines for sending out cards or a small token to the family of a member. In the past I have gotten several requests that I was not able to send out in a timely manner because the guidelines below were not adhered to. Please make sure that you include all of the information listed below so that we may pay our respects to the families in their time of need. Thank you.

Guidelines for welfare: A bereavement card will be sent in the event of a member's spouse, parent, child, or sibling's death. In the case of a member passing, special circumstances will then apply. The procedure for a sympathy card to be sent is as follows: Members should contact their building representative as soon as they believe a member meets the above guidelines and a bereavement card should be sent. The building representative should contact me via email at [daniellesocialchairbees@gmail.com](mailto:daniellesocialchairbees@gmail.com) with the member's name, address as well as the name and relation to the deceased. In the event it is a member that has passed, I still need their name, address and a home or cell number of a member of their family so that we can acknowledge their service with us in a special way. If you need more information, see your building rep, check out our BEES website or feel free to me an email.

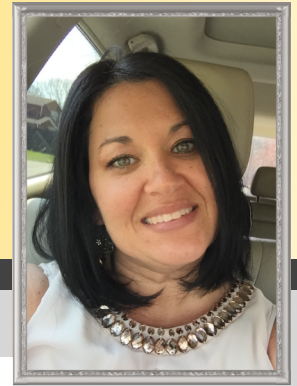
Have a happy and healthy spring!

Danielle



# Social Chair - Danielle Ibba-Morabito

## Let's BEE Social

A flyer for the BEES Retiree Honorarium. The background is dark with yellow and red text. It features a red apple with a bee on it, a green pencil with the text 'DINNER • MUSIC • DANCING' on it, and a row of colorful pencils at the bottom.

**BEES Retiree Honorarium**  
Please join us as we honor all our retirees and their years of dedicated service with Eastern Suffolk BOCES

**School is Out FOREVER**

**DINNER • MUSIC • DANCING**

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 4:30pm**

**Land's End**  
8 Brown's River Road, Sayville, NY 11782  
RSVP by May 12

**Only due paying BEES members can attend**

**RSVP is mandatory!** Please make sure you will be attending before you send back this flyer. Once you respond, we have to pay for it. **Please bring your Eastern Suffolk BOCES badge with you.** Due to limited space, only this year's retirees can bring a guest.

**Active Paying Member's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Building** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number attending, including yourself** \_\_\_\_\_ Please check if you are a retiree for 2023

**Guest Name** (this year's retirees only) \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this flyer to  
**Danielle Ibba-Morabito, Building SHS**  
If emailing please be sure to attach the completed flyer to [Dibba@esboces.org](mailto:Dibba@esboces.org)

**Past Retiree Members**  
Please respond to Retiree Chairperson:  
**Terry Kalb**  
[terrykalb@yahoo.com](mailto:terrykalb@yahoo.com) or call  
**631-929-4295**



# Retiree Chapter Chairperson - Terry Kalb

## Radiant Retirees



Hello BEES Retirees

Here is a reminder that our Spring Meeting will be held on the Zoom platform on Wednesday April 26th at 10AM. A few days before the meeting, you will receive a zoom invite via email. Please put the date and time on your calendar now.

If you plan to attend the in-person Honorarium on June 7th celebrating our brand new 2023 retirees, please email me asap at [terrykalb@yahoo.com](mailto:terrykalb@yahoo.com) so I can add you to the RSVP list. Your dues for the 2022-23 school year must be up to date in order for you to come. If you retired in the 2021-22 school year, you do not owe any dues this school year.

Happy Passover, a joyous Easter, and Ramadan Mubarek to all of you observing these holidays, and welcome to Spring everyone!

Terry Kalb  
BEES Retiree Chapter President

# Spotlight on Our BEES Community

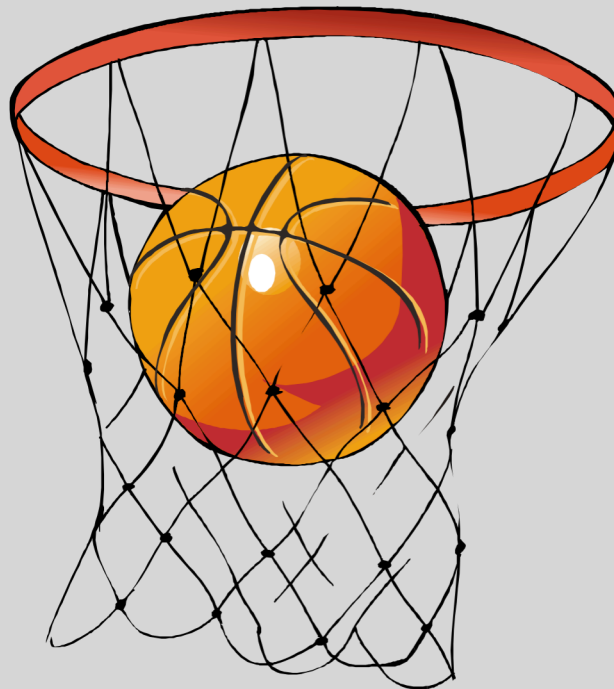


## Coach of the Year – Curtis Williams

In this edition of the BEES Beacon we would like to Shine the Spotlight on our very own Curtis Williams. Curtis is one of our hard working Aides at Tecumseh Elementary School.

Let's all give Mr. Williams, a big congratulations for earning the title of JV basketball coach of the year for The Bayport Blue Point School District.

Is there a BEES member you think should deserves the “spotlight”? Email me at [Alrbeeunion@gmail.com](mailto:Alrbeeunion@gmail.com) and they could be in our next issue of the BEES Beacon!





# **BEES**

## **BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk**

### **Union Strong**

**Asha Mazza-Shaw - President**  
**Amanda Pica - Executive Vice President**  
**Al Rios - Executive Vice President**  
**Keith Flynn - First Vice President**  
**Angela Ritchie - Area Vice President Para Educators**  
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**Kristin Ericson-Abbruzzese - Area Vice President Itinerants/SAS**  
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**Rachael Klahn - Treasurer**  
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**Tiffany Robinson - Recording Secretary**  
**Dennis Charaton - Webmaster**  
**Terry Kalb - Retiree Chapter Chairperson**  
**Mary Longo - BEES Office Secretary**  
**Asha Mazza-Shaw - BEES Beacon Publisher**

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