

**Volume 36 Issue 4
May/June
2023**

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*



What's Inside

- The President's Report - p. 2**
- Politics in Education - p.5**
- The Executive Vice Presidents' Reports - pp. 7 & 8**
- The First Vice President's Report - p. 10**
- Area VP for Para Educators Report - p. 13**
- Area VP for Special Education Report - p. 14**
- Area VP for Itinerants/SAS Report - p. 16**
- Area VP for CTE/SCE Report - p. 18**
- Membership Secretary's Report - p. 19**
- Treasurer's Report - p. 20**
- Grievance Officer's Report - p. 21**
- Social Chairperson's Report - p. 22**
- Recording Secretary's Note - p. 23**
- Retiree Chairperson's Note - p. 24**



President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Union Strong



Greetings BEES members, and happy summer! It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. This year we were able to move back to some of our pre-Covid practices, gathering together and leaving masks at home. Though we left some of the fears and difficulties of Covid behind us, this year was not without its challenges. During my twenty plus years working at ES BOCES, I have learned that there will always be ups and downs. However, no matter what each year brings, it is the people who work for this agency that make it great, no matter what. It's the people, our union members, who motivate me to continue the hard work of union leadership, and I want to thank you all for the continued opportunity to represent you as the BEES president.

We have continued to see growth and development within the agency, which we have not seen in several years. While this is excellent for job security, it does make space tight and schedules tighter. We have been working continuously throughout the school year with the agency to hire new staff at an unprecedented rate. The agency will continue hiring staff for new positions during the course of the summer. Additionally, the agency has plans to address ongoing concerns regarding space as programs continue to expand.

Throughout the school year, we continued to work through many personnel changes in HR-- some we expected, and others we did not anticipate. The unexpected departures of head HR administrators made it difficult to navigate and address the needs of members at times. Thankfully, there are people in HR and other departments, who absorbed extra roles and responsibilities in order to maintain the numerous operations it takes to run the agency smoothly as well as to provide stability for our BEES members - thank you. I would also like to extend gratitude to Dr. Nichelle Rivers, Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, and Mr. James Stucchio, Associate Superintendent for Management Services, for their collaborative work with the paraprofessional's contract MOU. If not for these individuals stepping in when others left us at the negotiation table, we would not have been able to complete the negotiating process.

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Union Strong



I would also like to thank the paraprofessional members of the BEES. If you filled out a survey or came to an informational meeting, your input was valuable to us. We wanted to hear from you regarding the contract areas that were most important to you, and when you gave us feedback, we listened. The MOU passed with 85% in favor, and a higher percentage of BEES para's voted than in previous ratifications. This MOU has many updates to the current contract language that make it less punitive, and it allows for more flexibility. Members will see language that allows for sick leave to be taken for a spouse or domestic partner as well as less restrictive language around the use of personal time. While the entire MOU is beneficial for members, some of the biggest benefits are the locked-in rate for health insurance contributions and the money added to salaries and longevity. These increases are more than any previous Yellow contract MOU, and these are only some of the benefits. Be sure to see your building representative in the fall to review the new contract in full.

Now that we have settled the Yellow contract, our attention will be on the Blue contract negotiations. We will begin working on a survey for Blue contract members to complete in order to gather your insights on which areas of the current contract to address. Please be sure to keep an eye out for the survey in the fall.

While loss is a part of life, it is never an easy experience. Sadly, this year we lost some very special members of our BEES union family. The agency provides services through EAP (Employee Assistance Program) for employees who may wish to seek out counseling during difficult times. For union members, AFT also offers free trauma counseling with highly trained therapists. You can access this counseling benefit by logging onto AFT's website and signing up for your member benefits here - <https://www.aft.org/members-only>. Additionally, whether you are a member of the NYSLRS or NYSTRS retirement systems, it is so important to make sure you have signed up for online access to your benefit account. With online access, you can make sure your beneficiaries are up to date or request to make changes if needed. You can access/sign up for your online LRS account here - <https://web.osc.state.ny.us/retire/sign-in.php>, and you can access/sign up for your online TRS account here - <https://secure.nystrs.org/MyNYSTRS/>. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those we lost this year. They will be forever in our hearts.

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw



Union Strong

As the agency continues to grow, so does our union membership. While many new employees take the opportunity to sign up for their union benefits and recognize the importance of union representation, there are some who choose to opt-out or remain unsigned, particularly in the Yellow contract. We must all do our part to ensure that our union remains strong and continues to gain new members as new employees are hired. I encourage you to share your positive experiences and the benefits of union-lead negotiations with these members and ask them to be part of the BEES. There are so many benefits to being a member of our local, not to mention the benefits of our state and national affiliates as well. Whether you need assistance with a personal issue, representation, or there are larger issues to be addressed with the agency, we are here to help and support you. NYSUT has many member benefits as well, and you can take advantage of many of them this summer. Discounts on travel and shopping are just a few of the perks that come with union membership. Take a look at the rest of the NYSUT member benefits here - <https://memberbenefits.nysut.org/>.

I would also like to acknowledge the building representatives and Executive Board for their hard work and dedication this school year. Union leadership is a pivotal role and challenging role to take on, and I am appreciative to each of them for their continued service and support to the BEES union. Finally, congratulations to this year's retirees! Thank you for your membership, and may your retirement years be happy, healthy and numerous. I wish each of you a restful summer, with time to spend on things that bring you joy. Thank you for being part of the BEES and for giving us the platform to work with the agency on the issues that matter to all of you.

In kindness and solidarity,

Asha



Politics in Education



The month of June means high school graduation, warmer weather and the end of the New York state legislative session. This year, the Senate and Assembly passed a flurry of bills that NYSUT activists and staffers fought hard for. Attention now shifts to Gov. Kathy Hochul's office to encourage her to sign those bills into law.

Read on for some of the many NYSUT-backed measures that earned legislative victories this session.

Union Wins

Foundation Aid

What happened: The state finally fulfilled its promise to fully fund Foundation Aid. New York state school aid totals \$34 billion and includes a \$2.6 billion Foundation Aid increase.

NYSUT believes: This investment means that students will finally get more of the tools and resources they need to thrive in the classroom. This was decades in the making and something we've been pushing hard for through our Fund Our Future campaign.

What this means for members: More classroom resources for educators and students. Hiring of needed staff. Updates to supplies and materials. The list could go on and will vary from district to district. View your school district's [projected aid run](#).

President Person says: *"The full funding of Foundation Aid represents a historic moment for New York and our public schools. The state is at last keeping a promise that has been broken for far too long."*

Workplace Violence Protection

What happened: The legislature passed a bill to include public schools in the state's Workplace Violence Protection Act.

NYSUT believes: This is an important step forward to protect teachers and School-Related Professionals. Now, the governor needs to sign it!

What this means for members: Schools would be required to complete a risk assessment to evaluate workplace violence and develop and implement programs to prevent and minimize it. Staff would be able to request an inspection by the Departments of Labor if dangerous environments are not being addressed.

President Person says: *"For too long, our members have been left out of these crucial workplace protections. With the passage of this bill, we are continuing to make sure that all educators have a workplace where they are safe and treated with dignity."*

Politics in Education

End of legislative session brings big wins for union-backed initiatives

Due Process

What happened: The legislature approved a change requiring an independent officer to oversee disciplinary hearings for school staff and other public employees. Current law lets the body bringing charges against the employee to run the hearings, ultimately affecting the disciplinary action that follows.

NYSUT believes: Due process rights are fundamental to our union values, and this is the only way to fully support the protections our civil service employees deserve.

What this means for members: This bill would give both the employer and the employee equal opportunities to present their respective cases. It would also ensure that the employee is not suspended without pay while any charges are pending.

President Person says: *“Teachers and their unions have no stake in protecting anyone who hurts children or who tarnishes our profession, but due process is a foundation of our Constitution. NYSUT supports a fair and objective hearing process.”*

Grow Your Own

What happened: The legislature passed a bill that requires the state education department to develop guidelines for Grow Your Own initiatives, aimed at attracting underrepresented candidates to teaching.

NYSUT believes: Representation in schools matters and NYSUT is committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse workforce, encouraging students of color to consider a career in education and supporting educators of color through professional development.

What this means for members: The state education department will work with districts and higher education institutions to develop strategies for recruitment such as creating an early pipeline in secondary school, establishing partnerships with community-based organizations, and identifying existing funding sources.

President Person says: *“NYSUT has been out front in sounding the alarm on the teacher shortage. Grow Your Own programs are a strategic way to develop aspiring educators who are strongly connected to the school and*

Executive Vice President - Al Rios

We Appreciate You



It is unbelievable that 10 months ago we were unpacking boxes and setting up our classrooms for another year of working. The year seems to fly by and before we know it, we will be back with a brand new group of students beginning another year, but first let us think of the amazing summer we will all have!

So as we begin to wrap up the 2022- 2023 school year by finishing our last lesson plans, organizing our end of the year celebrations and begin to pack up our classrooms.

I ask you all to think about the strength and potential we have as the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk. We are one of the largest local unions in New York and together we have an incredible amount of strength and influence. I thank each one of our members who have resisted putting themselves above the rest and stuck with our union.

I also want to thank all our members, who have given me the opportunity to work for you as your Executive Vice President. I appreciate all of you who have trusted me with your questions and concerns and I hope I was able to help in some way. I hope you all know that whether this is your 30th year or first year, your concerns are important and need to be recognized. It is up to ALL of us, together to strive to make changes that will better serve all our members. I know we have more to work on and with your support and involvement I believe we can continue on a positive path.

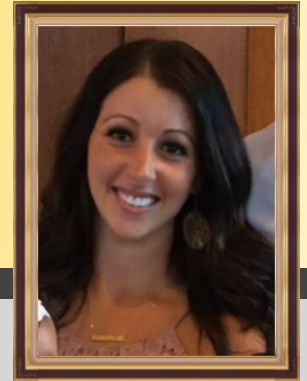
To our retirees, thank you for your service and dedication. It was truly a pleasure to honor you all at this year's Honorarium. It was so wonderful to see, in person so many colleagues, laugh, and have a great time together. Thank you for sticking with YOUR union. Now comes a new chapter in your lives and I wish you all the very best that life has to offer. You deserve all the

good that this world can offer, Congratulations and I hope to see you at future honorariums. Finally, I wish all our members a very happy, healthy summer vacation. Take a couple of minutes to relax and reflect on all you have accomplished and the lives you have affected.

Congratulations! I look forward to seeing you all in September.

~ Al Rios

Executive Vice President - Amanda Pica

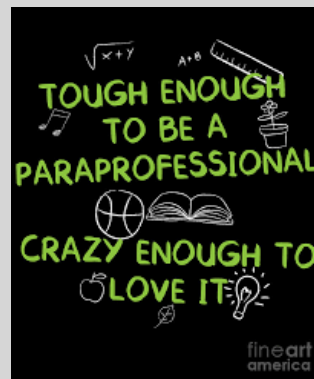


Better Together

Wow, another year in the books! It's hard to believe I have just completed my 14 th year here at Eastern Suffolk Boces. As we close out this year I would like to thank all of our members for their constant support and dedication. We have embraced a lot of changes this past year; some challenges were more difficult to navigate than others, but I truly believe this past year we have had the most growth. Learning to adjust in a post covid world, negotiating a new contract and adjusting to all the changes within the agency we continued thrive. I am so proud of all the work and successes our E-Board has achieved this past year. We could not do this without your constant support.

I want to congratulate all of those we are retiring. I wish you all nothing but great success as you enter this next chapter. After all your years of hard work and dedication to our students and program, you all deserve a relaxing and adventurous retirement. Thank you all for your years of service within our community. I hope that all of our members enjoy a summer break to recharge and energize for the upcoming school year!

~ Amanda



NEW PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT!

Universal Life Insurance

with Convalescent Care Benefit

provided by:

Trustmark[®]
benefits beyond benefits

- Innovative universal life insurance product provided by Trustmark[®], combining life insurance coverage with a convalescent care benefit that can be used to pay for long-term care services.
- **Limited time offer!** In-service members ages 18-64 who enroll between May 1 and June 16, 2023 may qualify for guaranteed coverage (no medical questions) up to \$50,000.
- Retiree members up to age 70 may elect coverage up to \$100,000 by answering some medical questions.

LIVING BENEFITS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

You could require long-term care services at any point in your life, which could cost hundreds of dollars per day. This universal life insurance program includes a convalescent care benefit that can help pay for these services at any age. Policyholders with a qualifying claim can collect up to 4% of their universal life death benefit per month for up to 25 months -- helping to cover the cost of long-term care services such as an in-home health aide, assisted living facility, or nursing home care.

LIFE INSURANCE

Protecting your loved ones is one of life's greatest responsibilities. Along with the grief that comes with losing a family member, survivors may suddenly be faced with costly expenses, debts, and a loss of income. Your death benefit can be used to help pay these expenses or for other items such as tuition or savings.

YOURCARE360 ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDE

This program includes access to YourCare360, providing an online resource that can help to guide you and your family through the caregiving journey.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org
or calling 800-626-8101.

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

May-Jun 2023

First Vice President - Keith Flynn



Your Voice, Your Union

As we approach the end of the school year, it's a time to celebrate all of our retirees, colleagues and friends that will be leaving the Agency and starting their next journey. Your dedication and commitment to the students and families will be sorely missed. We wish you the best of luck on your next adventure!

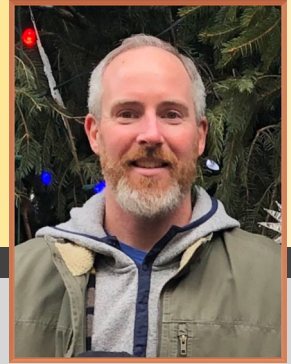
Congratulations to the Yellow Contract Members and the negotiating team from the Executive Board on delivering much needed improvements to your contract. They were able to make a lot of progress after years of minimal improvements. Although there is still work to be done, it's an excellent start!

On May 16th, members came out in full force to vote on the school budgets. This year, 98% of school budgets passed in Nassau and Suffolk County. There is a record of \$771 million dollars infused into state financial aid, which is allowing some districts to boost budgets, while also curbing taxes. Total proposed spending is up 6% for the next school year, while proposed tax collections are up less than 2%. This is not only great for your local school district, but passed budgets means districts will have the funding to send their students to BOCES.

NYSTRS is pleased to announce the return of their in-person PREP seminars. The PREP seminar educates members of all ages and career stages on the value of careful financial and retirement planning. The seminar further helps them understand their NYSTRS benefits and how their future pension fits into their overall retirement picture. This information is a key piece of the plan that helps members achieve their retirement goals and dreams.



First Vice President - Keith Flynn



Your Voice, Your Union

The below information is straight from the NYSTRS webpage. The summer schedule of seminars are now available. [Retirement Planning > Pension & Retirement Education Program](#) page at NYSTRS.org or by clicking the link below. Spots fill up quickly.

See below for the list of the seminars in Suffolk County over the summer 2023:

L.I. - Melville.

Melville Corporate Center III
324 South Service Road
Melville, New York 11747

[Directions](#)

Wednesday,
August 16
Thursday, August
17

L.I. - Riverhead

Hotel Indigo - East End
1830 West Main Street, Route 25
Riverhead, New York 11901

[Directions](#)

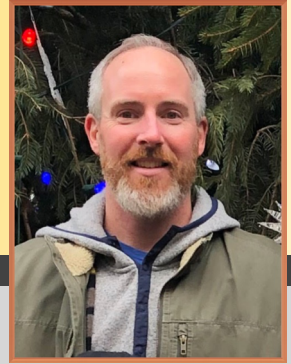
Tuesday, August 15

There are two ways to make a reservation:

- 1 Online using your [MyNYSTRS](#) account. After logging into your account, visit the Tools > Schedule a Consultation or PREP page.
- 2 By calling NYSTRS at (800) 348-7298, Ext. 6180.

When calling for a reservation you must provide your EmplID or Social Security number, email address and home phone number (and the same information for your spouse)

First Vice President - Keith Flynn



Your Voice, Your Union

Speaking about retirement, NYSUT launched the initiative last year to Fix Tier 6. Your VOTECOPE contributions are directly linked to help fund this initiative. Please refer to your NYSUT webpage for further information. The quotes below are directly from the NYSUT website:



“Fixing Tier 6 is about solidarity, fairness and dignity,” said NYSUT Executive Director Melinda Person. “Thirty years is a career; it doesn’t make sense that some members have to work longer.”

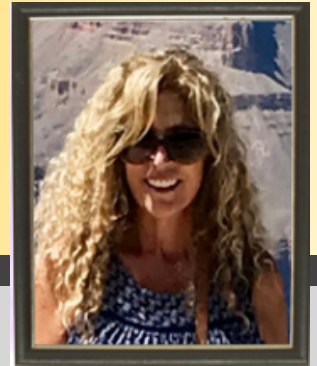
Citing the union’s effort in 2000 to reform Tier 4 by capping member contributions at 10 years and ending early retirement penalties, Person was confident the union can achieve similar reforms for Tier 6 — but it won’t be a quick fix. She estimates at least a decade of work before winning parity with Tier 4.

“Last year we got vesting fixed, next we’re going after age penalties, final average salaries and contribution increases,” Person continued. “We’ve done this before, and we can do this again.”

I hope you all have a healthy end to the school year and an excellent summer. Once again, congratulations to all the Retirees!

Keith

Area VP for Para Educators - Angela Ritchie



Amazing SRPs

Dear Fellow BEES Members,

THANK YOU!! We have a new contract that will go into effect on July 1, 2023.

I hope we accomplished all that the membership asked and everyone will see all the benefits this new contract has to offer.

If any member still has questions or would like further information, you can contact your Building Rep or email me directly.

With this school year ending, I'm sure everyone is looking forward to some well-deserved time off.

If you are working summer school please remember that it is non-contractual, however, the new contract will be in effect and members will see an increase in their summer pay.

You would need to contact H.R directly if there are questions regarding summer school placement, pay, hours, absences, sub pay, and other issues.

I want to thank all our members again for their continued support and I wish you all a healthy, happy, and peaceful summer.

Thank you for sticking with the Union!

Angela



Area VP for Special Education - Patti Richards

Union Strong All Day Long



As this year comes to an end, I want to congratulate our retirees. I wish you all the best with your future endeavors. I also want to thank the BEES membership for their unconditional support as the Area Vice President for Special Education. I have continued to learn a great deal over the past year, and I look forward to the continued journey.

This year, we have had several occasions to join in on the building level union meetings, and we plan to continue this next year. This was a rewarding experience, as members were provided with an opportunity to speak and voice questions and concerns in person. One of the takeaways was that members want more involvement within the union.

As a union member, you are part of a community dedicated to each other. The union's collective strength supports you — and you strengthen the union through your activism and community service. One way you can become more involved is to take part in local and statewide campaigns. Join in helping to elect candidates who are pro-education. Our union is a powerful force for good. NYSUT is a proud statewide leader in community and philanthropic causes, including walks to combat breast cancer and heart disease.

On a local level, you were involved when you showed up to vote. Ninety-nine percent of the school budgets passed in NYS, eighty-five percent of pro-education candidates won, and 75 NYSUT members were elected or reelected.

Area VP for Special Education - Patti Richards

Union Strong All Day Long



You are also involved when you attend your building level meetings. Each month, your building representative attends a meeting with the E-board and then in turn brings the important information to you. Your building reps received training and support. They are available to answer your questions relating to your rights and benefits, as well as update you on union activities. When they can't answer, they reach out to the appropriate board member to get the answer. Remember, communication is a two-way street, and you are a crucial link. If your rep is unaware of any concerns, they cannot help.

Overall, this may sound silly, but it is very important, the BEES members are nothing more or less than a group of people sharing common goals and hopes. Alone and isolated we are just employees within the agency. But together we are the Boces Educators of Eastern Suffolk.

I wish you all a well-deserved break and happy summer. Take time to enjoy, life is so very precious.

Thank you,

Patti



Area VP for Itinerants/SAS - Kristin Ericson Abbruzzese



Things to Remember

Well I cannot believe another school year is coming to a close. As like most years for myself, it seems very busy and at times it can even be overwhelming and then before you know it the birds are chirping and it is Spring. I want to start off by wishing nothing but the best for all of our retiring members who may be having mixed emotions about leaving their ESBOCES family. You will all be greatly missed and are much appreciated for all your hard work and dedication to a rewarding but often very challenging career. Personally I have several friends who have retired and I have not heard one regret from any one of them especially when it comes to spending more time with their families.

The first issue I would like to address is a reminder to send in the required form and certificates, if needed, to show that you have completed the required (15) professional development hours for this school year. There is a deadline for this form to be submitted so please get that in before your last day of school. Second, I would like to remind members that we encourage you to reach out if you have had any negative ratings and/or comments on your observations or evaluations. The administrator who completed the report should have had a conversation with you both before and after the completion of your assessment so you are aware of any issues and how you can make improvements. Members should not be writing up their own observations and/or evaluations for their administrators. This is solely the responsibility of your administrator, not your responsibility. Please don't forget you have the right to write a rebuttal should you not agree with either of these reports. Your union is here to assist you should you find yourself in a situation with a poor assessment.

Area VP for Itinerants/SAS - Kristin Ericson Abbruzzese



Things to Remember

The last issue to address, is not really an issue but a reminder to please reach out to the union with any questions or comments you may have regarding the avalanche of rumors that are already swirling regarding the negotiations of the Blue Contract for next year. The EBOARD will move forward in the same manner as the Yellow Contract was handled in sending out a survey early in the year, compiling the results and sharing those results with the members. These results will show us the major concerns, wishes and wants from our members. The final vote on an MOU will not move forward until the EBOARD is able to hear from the members and how they feel about any changes that may take place to the current contract. I do hope that members in the Blue contract took note of how the Yellow contract was ratified because it was very evident that member's voices were heard all along the way while negotiations were happening. Please make sure that the union has your personal email since we cannot use your ESBOCES email for any of these surveys, shared information, meetings and voting. Also, only dues paying members will be allowed to participate in any of the ratification processes.

I want to wish everyone a great, restful and enjoyable summer. Find a way to recharge over the break whether you will be working or not. No matter what hat you wear at ESBOCES you are a caretaker of some sort; don't forget to take care of yourself ;-). I also want to thank the support many members provide to me and the VP role I am in because of all of you. I can be reached at beesvpitin@gmail.com and/or Sequoya HS 631-622-1240

Area VP for CTE/SCE - Deirdre Pettit

Success!



As another school year comes to an end and we begin to close out our classrooms I have an opportunity to look back over this year and see the good, the difficult and the areas I can strive to improve. For me personally this was a very successful school year. My students had personal challenges that at times seemed insurmountable and some days the best I could offer was a safe place to land.

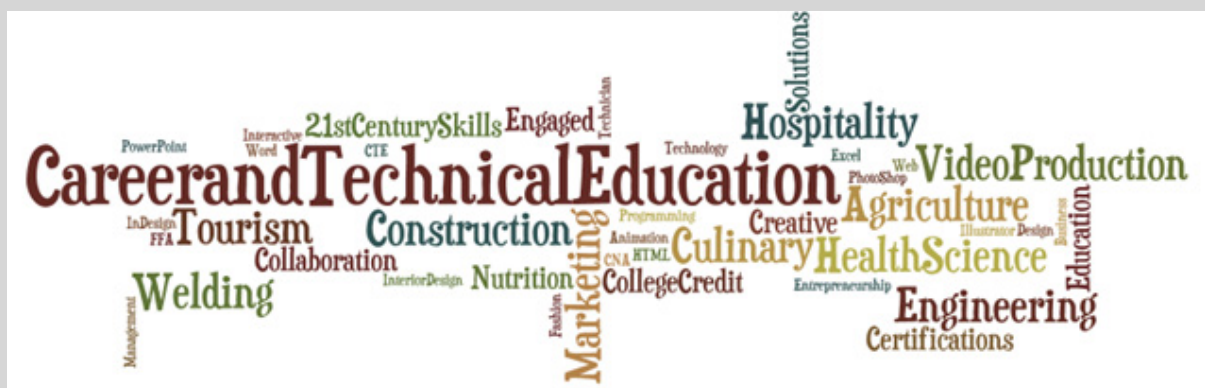
As I get closer to retirement my needs as a BEES member have changed. Most recently dealing with a chronically ill mother, and teenage boys trying to navigate employment, school and higher education. I am very assured that all of our voices and concerns need to be heard. The first-year teacher has different concerns than the 20-year teacher. This next year we will begin contract negotiations for our contract ending in June 2024. I ask all of you to please email me your thoughts and concerns and let's get them on the table to look over. If you think of something over the summer -shoot me an email.

I hope you all have a great summer filled with adventures and spend your days exactly the way you want to.

See you in September.

Deirdre

Dkroupa222@gmail.com



Membership Coordinator - Adrian Grube



A Happy Hive

As we close our 2022-2023 school year, and I close my first chapter as your Membership Coordinator I want to say how enjoyable it was to work with all of you in this capacity. I have learned so much more about our agency, our union and about how important it is to stand together. We are an amazing team that does amazing things for our members and students daily. This year because we stood together, we have a great Yellow contract and have high hopes for the Blue contract next year! I would like to congratulate our retirees, what a wonderful achievement. Never forget the lives you have impacted and the changes you have helped create. I hope our paths cross again. I want to end by saying thank you! Thank you for a wonderful school year, thank you for a wonderful first year on the E-Board, Thank you to our negotiating team for a Yellow contract we can be proud of, and thank you to all of you for your membership!

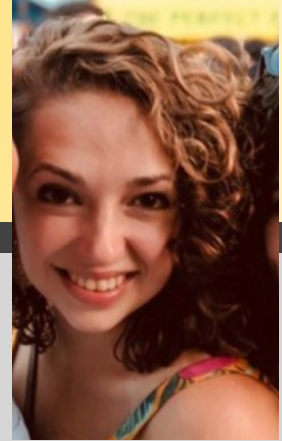
Have an amazing and restful summer,

Adrian



Treasurer - Rachael Klahn

Budgeting the BEES



Well everyone, we did it! Another year in the books! The school year is always difficult, yet rewarding and memorable. Every year we meet the challenges that face us for the benefit of our students and fellow members, as well as to create experiences and relationships that we can all cherish. We were finally able to return to events and celebrations in a way we haven't experienced since before COVID and it was wonderful!

I would like to thank all of the retirees for their years of dedicated work and union membership. Soon we will say goodbye to our friends and colleagues as they move on to the next chapter. You will be missed and will always be remembered by those whose lives you have touched.

This past year has been an incredible learning experience as your new Treasurer! I am fortunate to have Michelle Tinter as my guide all the way from sunny, beautiful Florida. She, along with the other Executive Board members, have taught me so much. Their patience and knowledge are things I am truly grateful for! I look forward to a relaxing summer- although for those of you working summer school like me, that won't start until August. I wish you all a safe, sunny and fun-filled summer!

Sincerely,

Rachael



Grievance Officer - Dana Sayers



Enjoy the Summer!

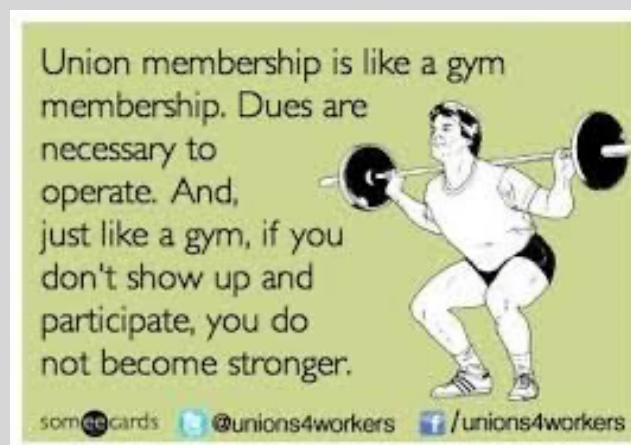
We made it! In just a few days the school year will be over, how did that happen? It seems like yesterday the year was just starting. And now, we are all busy packing up our classrooms or offices, completing paperwork, and planning vacations.

As a new member to the Executive Board I saw some exciting changes and witnessed how hard the board works for its members. A new MOU for the Yellow contract member! Congrats to all who worked hard to make this happen. A new classroom ratio for the developmental programs, many new teachers hired the past few months and TA's and Special Education Aides hired all year long after many job fairs to fill vacancies.

This year proved to be another successful year where we did not file any grievances.

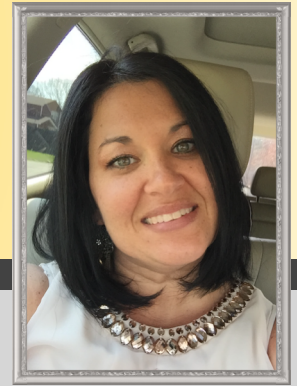
To those that are retiring, enjoy the new chapter in your life. It is well deserved. I hope everyone has a restful and relaxing summer.

Dana



Social Chair - Danielle Ibba-Morabito

Let's BEE Social



Hello BEES friends,

Our 2023 Honorarium was so much fun and we were so excited to see everyone in person again. Thank you all who attended!

Don't forget we have a great perk - Gateway Playhouse has given BEES MEMBERS 10% tickets in their 2023 Season. Using the code GATEWAYBEES. For the fliers please check out our BEES FB private page or our web page: <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 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.

The summer will be here before we know it, it will be time to start the 23-24 school year. Don't rush it, take time to recharge and enjoy the journey you are on. For some of us, the end of this school year means new beginnings, whether in a new building or new position or you are at the end of a wonderful career, and you are heading down that path of retirement. For those of you finishing up your first year with Eastern Suffolk BOCES, I hope the year was a great success! We would like to wish you all a safe, happy and restful summer.

To those members of the BEES that are retiring, we wish you a happy and healthy retirement. We, of course, welcome your membership under your new hard earned title of "retiree". YOU WILL BE MISSED SEE YOU ALL SOON

My email address is: daniellesocialchairbees@gmail.com

Have a great, healthy, and safe summer,

Danielle Ibba

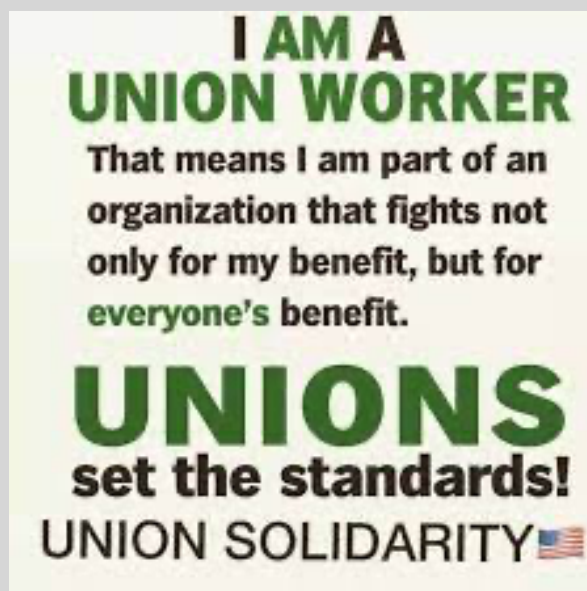
Recording Secretary - Tiffany Robinson



Nice Notes

Greetings BEES members! We have made it through another school year! I'm hoping that everyone has had a happy, healthy, productive school year! We have all felt the pain of staff shortages and the feeling of pure exhaustion, but as a whole we have managed to push through and be completely dedicated to our jobs and the students that we service. Another year of working with such an amazing, and hard working E-Board proved to show just how dedicated they all are to their members. Several issues were tackled and our board members were able to negotiate a wonderful Yellow contract keeping all their members in mind both old and new! Welcome to all the new members, and we appreciate all of our veteran members who have stuck by and trusted the fact that your union is always here for you. Members, remember to always take advantage of available resources and don't forget about all the useful information that is available on the BEES Beacon website. Feel free to always reach out. There is no stability without solidarity, and no solidarity without stability! Thank you for standing by your union!!

Tiffany



Retiree Chapter Chairperson - Terry Kalb

Radiant Retirees



Hello BEES Retirees and a special welcome to our BEES who are brand new retirees as of this summer!

Our Retiree Chapter will hold two informational Zoom Meetings in the upcoming school year, one in the fall and one in the spring- usually October and April, dates to be announced this summer. You will also receive periodic email newsletters. To maintain your active status, we ask for a \$35 check made out to BEES (not me) and send in September to PO Box 798, Wading River NY 11792. Put a reminder on your calendar on Labor Day- celebrate by supporting our union! If you are a new retiree going out this school year, 2023-24 dues are FREE as our welcome gift to you. Please make sure I have your email address so we can invite you to attend NYSUT Retiree Council 22's complimentary brunch for new retirees at a lovely venue this fall. The invitations will be sent out this summer. Send your personal email to me at terrykalb@yahoo.com to be sure you don't miss news of any special events, benefits updates, etc. Your ESB email address expires with your retirement.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer!

Stay well, and stay connected!

Terry Kalb

BEES Retiree Chapter President



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
Patti Richards - Area Vice President Special Education
Kristin Ericson-Abbruzzese - Area Vice President Itinerants/SAS
Deirdre Pettit - Area Vice President CTE/SCE
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Nick DeBlanco - Contractual Benefits Officer
Adrian Grube - Membership Coordinator
Dana Sayers - Grievance Officer
Danielle Ibba-Morabito - Social Chair
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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The BEES Beacon is the official publication of the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk First Supervisory District

