

**Volume 37 Issue 4
June
2024**

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, and happy summer! It's hard to believe another year has come and gone. Each year is different, bringing its own unique challenges and hurdles as well as new opportunities to celebrate wins and successes. 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 union president.

The agency has continued hiring at unprecedented rates, and our student numbers are higher than they have been in several years. While space is continually an issue, we welcome the opening of the new Masera Middle School program this fall. Some of you may remember the Masera building from years past, but it will not be the building of your memories! The building has been extensively renovated to ensure it is safe and ready for new students and staff next year.

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 potential members and encourage 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/>. You can also access member benefits through AFT, which you can check out here - <https://www.aft.org/members-only>

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Union Strong



Those of you who are Blue contract members are aware that we are continuing to negotiate as the school year comes to an end. Our BEES negotiating team and the agency worked throughout the school year in an attempt to develop an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that our team felt was something the membership could agree to and feel valued, appreciated and heard. We have not yet reached that point in our negotiations. However, we are hopeful that we are not far from it, and should we reach the point where we have an MOU to present, we will set up a meeting to present that information. This could potentially occur during the summer months, so it is important that you have provided us with a non-BOCES email address, joined our private FB group or our Remind messaging system to ensure you receive messages about any upcoming meetings or ratification votes. Importantly, the vote to ratify an MOU will be done electronically, so you can vote from anywhere. Please see the end of this article for the keywords to join our Remind messaging system.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the building representatives and Executive Board for their hard work and dedication this school year. Union leadership is a pivotal and challenging role to take on, and I am appreciative to each of them for their continued service and support to the BEES union. We will have some changes to our Executive Board next year due to the retirement of our Area VP for Special Education, Patti Richards. I would like to thank Patti for her years of union leadership; she has been an integral part of our Executive Board, and we will all miss her dearly! Enjoy retirement, Patti! Dana Sayers has been appointed to the position of Area VP for Special Education. Dana leaves the position of Grievance Officer, which will be filled by Tiffany Robinson. Tiffany leaves the position of Recording Secretary, which will be filled by Marianne Zioba Longabardi, who was a building representative from WHBLC. Please join me in welcoming them to their new roles; together we look forward to continuing to serve the BEES membership.

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw



Union Strong

Lastly, 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

To Join our Remind messaging system (we suggest downloading the app for the best experience), you can join by downloading the Remind app and searching for the keyword(s), or just by texting the keyword(s) to the number **81010**. Please use the keyword(s) for the groups that apply to you (you can belong to more than one if you would like to).

Remind Key words

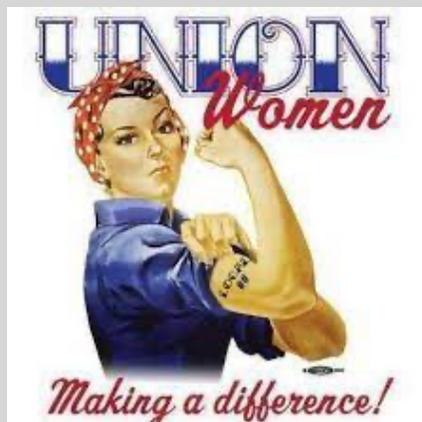
@beesblue - for Teachers, Itinerants, Certificated Staff

@beesparas - for aides and TAs

@beessped - for all Special Ed. members

@beesctesce - for all CTE/SCE members

@beesitin - for all Itinerant members



Politics in Education



As June arrives, it brings with it a trio of notable events: high school graduations, rising temperatures, and the conclusion of the New York state legislative session. This year is turning out to be a great year for public schools, educators, students and union members across the state. The Senate and Assembly have passed multiple bills championed by NYSUT. Now, the focus shifts to Governor Kathy Hochul, as advocates encourage her to sign these crucial pieces of legislation into law, solidifying the progress made during this session and ensuring that the hard-fought efforts of NYSUT supporters come to fruition.

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

Union Wins

Budget Recap

What happened: In April, NYSUT [notched incredible wins](#) in the state budget that included: rejecting most of the proposed cuts to school aid and increasing Foundation Aid by \$430 million more than the executive proposal; lowering the Final Average Salary calculation from five to three years for Tier 6 members — the biggest win for pension reform in 20 years; and saving SUNY Downstate while sending hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding to CUNY and SUNY campuses. NYSUT leadership [traveled the state to learn what proposed cuts to Foundation Aid](#) would do to schools. Meanwhile our members rallied in [Mount Vernon](#) and [Suffolk](#), demanding aid be restored.

Why it matters: Our members' voices are powerful, and these victories would not have happened without the incredible outpouring of support from educators, students, parents and community members who know that properly funding education is vital to New York's future.

What this means: Together we win and succeed in making New York stronger for working class families and students alike.

APPR

What happened: Following a decade-long process of negotiations and advocacy, education stakeholders and the State Education Department reached an agreement to return teacher evaluations to local control. After NYSUT President Melinda Person and State Education Commissioner Betty Rosa [hand-delivered the legislation to lawmakers](#), NYSUT engaged an intense lobbying fight to ensure passage in the Assembly and the Senate.

Politics in Education

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

APPR Cont

Why it matters: The return of teacher evaluations to local control is an important issue, one that we have been fighting FOR since. This is about returning dignity and respect to the teaching profession and recognizing that teacher evaluations are best handled on a local level.

What this means: If signed, the new bill will allow teachers to focus on authentic learning, rather than just test-taking skills. Teachers will receive more transparent, immediate feedback from administrators and have more support in their educational career.

Fix Tier 6

What happened: This year NYSUT members [campaigned](#), [organized](#), and [rallied](#) around the issue of tier equity – they even held some [pretty snazzy cocktail parties](#). In October, [NYSUT leadership testified before the New York Senate](#), explaining that correcting Tier 6 is crucial to attracting more professionals to the teaching field. Ultimately, [we took our fight to the Capitol](#). In April, all that NYSUT activism paid off when [we won the biggest win for pension reform in 20 years](#) – lowering the Final Average Salary (FAS) calculation from five to three years for Tier 6 members.

Why it matters: Fixing Tier 6 is about solidarity and fairness. It's unfair that some NYSUT members must work longer, and contribute more, to earn significantly less in retirement.

What this means: This new math for FAS will mean more money for Tier 6 members annually in retirement - around \$100,000 in additional retirement earnings for the average member. It also marks the second victory in the battle toward Tier 6 equity; in 2023, the vesting period for Tier 6 members was dropped from 10 to five years. These wins have spurred us on – and [we won't quit until we Fix Tier 6](#).

School Temperature

What happened: Schools got hot is what happened! It's been happening every year, but the issue is worsening as the climate changes and school facilities continue to age. This past September, when temps spiked well into the 90s across the state, [our members raised the alarm about the ill effects of heat on their students](#). NYSUT hit the road and took lawmakers with them [to visit schools and experience firsthand how difficult teaching and learning conditions become when the mercury rises](#).

Over the fall, [we collected over 800 stories from educators and parents across the state about extreme heat in classrooms](#). This May, when temps began to rise, our educators sounded off again about the way heat hits kids differently.

Politics in Education

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

School Temperature Cont

On the MAC, nearly 22,000 people told our lawmakers to address this issue. And just in the past few weeks, [we brought the heat to legislators, literally, by setting up a sauna in the Capitol](#) to recreate sweltering classroom conditions.

Why it matters: Our members' working conditions are our students' learning conditions, and we should do everything we can to make schools safe and comfortable. We also have mountains of data that shows that extreme heat is unhealthy for students and compromises their ability to learn.

What this means: The bill establishes a maximum temperature in school buildings and facilities and requires schools to follow procedures when temperatures rise. Specifically, when temperatures in our schools reach between 82 degrees and 87 degrees, the school would be required to determine how to address high-heat conditions (e.g., provide water, air conditioning, close classroom shades, open windows, turn off lights, etc.). If the temperature rises further still, additional measures will need to be taken.

Credit - NYSUT Communications

Want to read more about NYSUT's other legislative victories? Check it out here - <https://www.nysut.org/news/2024/june/legislative-wrap-up>

Thank you NYSUT!

Executive Vice President - Al Rios

We Appreciate You



Where does the time go? It seems that we were just unpacking boxes, setting up our classrooms and getting to know our students for the new year. The year seems to fly by and before we know it we will be back with new students beginning another school year in September, but first let's enjoy our summer.

I would like to take this time to thank all our members who have worked diligently throughout the year to make sure our students get the best possible education. The BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk is made up of more than 1700 caring, professional and talented educators that go above and beyond to make sure our students receive services that will help them succeed in life. It is about putting the students first and making sure we are here for them all along the way. You may not realize the difference you make in our students' lives but I am here to tell you that you do and I want to thank you.

I hope this year was as rewarding for you as it was for me. I took on a new home base at Islip Career Center as a Special Education Academic teacher. New responsibilities, new colleagues, new classes and new students. Changing programs could be unsettling and challenging but the staff, administration and students welcomed me and made me feel right at home and I want to thank them all for making my transition seamless.

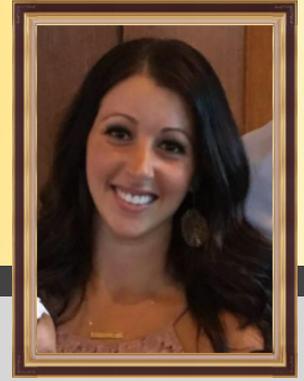
As we begin to wrap up the 2023- 2024 school I ask you all to think about the strength and potential we have as the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk. We are the largest local on Long Island and together we have an incredible amount of strength and influence. I know we are still in the middle of negotiations and for some it is frustrating we didn't complete that process yet, but remember nothing worthwhile happens instantly but if we stay strong and support each other, in the end we will come out ahead. Thank you to each one of our members who have resisted putting themselves above the rest and stuck with their union. It makes a difference.

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 collaboration I believe we will be successful.

Finally, to our retirees, Thank you for your service and dedication, thank you for sticking with YOUR union through thick and thin. 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! I wish all our members a very happy, healthy summer vacation. Take a couple minutes to look back at all you have done and the lives you have affected. Congratulations, we've done a great job together. 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 15 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. This was a year of transision and for our yellow contract members and I want to thank you all for your patience this past year as we embraced all our well deserved changes.

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! See you in September!!!

~ Amanda



WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS THIS SUMMER?

NYSUT Member Benefits offers a variety of endorsed programs & services that can help you enjoy today, while planning for tomorrow.



As a NYSUT member, you have access to participate in a number of programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. These products have been carefully cultivated to provide members with quality programs at competitive prices, including insurance programs to help you protect your family; legal and financial plans to help you plan for the future; and shopping, travel & personal services to help save you money.

Member Benefits also offers a number of benefits available free of charge to members such as the premium Calm service, Peer Support Line, Financial Learning Center, and more.

Participation in our endorsed programs features the added protection of having a trusted advocate on your side. Our staff take great pride in stepping in to support members with any questions, concerns, or issues that may arise.

No matter what your plans may be, NYSUT Member Benefits is a great place to start. Explore all that your union membership has to offer!



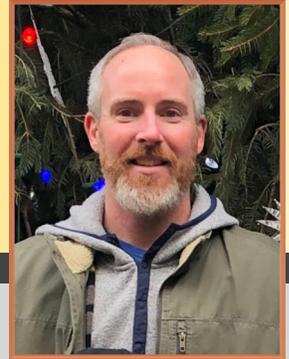
Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org, or calling 800-626-8101.

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



May/June 2024

First Vice President - Keith Flynn



Your Voice, Your Union

Absolutely amazing that another school year has come and gone. It's that time of the year to celebrate all our retirees, colleagues and friends that will be leaving the Agency and starting the next chapter of their life. As well as 1 of our Executive Board Members, Patti Richards. Her dedication and resourcefulness will be missed. I wish all of our retirees a heartfelt Congratulations!!!

As you have probably read by now, 122 of the 124 school board budgets have passed for next year. This is not only great for your local school district, but passed budgets mean districts will have the funding to send their students to BOCES. On May 21st, members all over the island came out to vote and share their voice on local school budgets. Four out of six school districts were able to pierce the tax-cap, where 2 did not receive the 60% majority. Sachem & West Babylon need to have a revote on a newly proposed plan in order for it to pass.

The financial forecast for our school districts is a little mixed based on the uncertainty over future payments of school aid. Governor Hochul and legislative leaders have agreed to sponsor a research study in the coming year, with an eye toward revamping the distribution of foundation aid. When Governor Hochul proposed a reduction in school aid at the January budget meeting, NYSUT went to work. Because of all the work NYSUT and our members have done, a majority of the school aid was restored. That is why 122 out 124 school districts were able to pass their budgets. It goes to show you how strength and numbers can get things done on the state level, thanks to NYSUT and all the legislative leaders working together for our students.

Last year, total statewide VOTE-COPE contributions were over 11 million. Voluntary contributions remain strong within our membership. These funds go directly into the political action committee that supports elections of individuals who represent labor and educational issues. We fund both Republicans and Democrats who support public education and oppose charter schools. We want people in power who are pro-union and people who will protect our contractual rights.

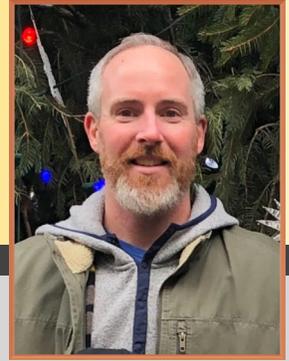
Before we think about next year, I wish you a happy and healthy school year and a restful summer!

Be well,

Keith



First Vice President - Keith Flynn



Your Voice, Your Union

SUPPORT VOTE-COPE	SUPPORT EDUCATORS	In just the past year, this is what we have accomplished thanks to NYSUT members' voluntary donations to VOTE-COPE:
	HELP OUR STUDENTS	
	PROTECT OUR RIGHTS	
	ADVANCE DEMOCRACY	
	UNITE OUR NATION	

IN NEW YORK STATE

 7.2% INCREASE in school aid	\$31.2 BILLION in total school aid and full foundation aid funding	\$891.8 MILLION for public higher education at SUNY and CUNY	\$106 MILLION for the hiring of full-time faculty at SUNY and CUNY	Elimination of the burdensome edTPA
 APPR suspended for another year	 Addressing class size in NYC	Fixes to Tier 6 retirement 	 Expanded accommodations for breastfeeding in the workplace	

IN SCHOOL BOARD & BUDGET ELECTIONS

60 NYSUT MEMBERS were elected or re-elected	86% of pro-education, pro-student endorsed candidates WON	99% of school budgets passed
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AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL

Passage of the **AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN**

- \$170 billion in dedicated funding to advance the process of returning to in-person instruction in K-12 school buildings.
- \$350 billion in state and local aid to help avoid layoffs of educators and other essential public servants.

Passage of the **INFLATION REDUCTION ACT**

Supporting VOTE-COPE is how we get it done.

This coming year, we'll be back at it as the voice of New York's educators in the halls of power.

- Fixing APPR permanently so you can teach and your students can learn.
- Reforming receivership which unfairly punishes schools based on flawed test scores.
- Properly funding our SUNY and CUNY colleges.
- Fighting at the bargaining table for good jobs, health care, better workplace conditions and your future.



Learn more and support at **VOTE-COPE.ORG**



Area VP for Para Educators - Angela Ritchie



Amazing SRPs

Dear Fellow BEES Members,

It is hard to believe we are coming to the end of another school year.

Our new contract is in place and except for some clarifications, I believe the paras are aware of all the new and revised additions.

One of the new additions is a stipend of 300.00 if a para has only used 7 absences during the school year. That includes personal days and sick days.

It states in the contract:

Pg. 6 #7 Sick and personal Leave Stipend

Full time unit members employed on or before September 30 of each year, who used no more than seven (7) sick and personal days, who have not been granted an additional leave under federal or state disability discrimination laws as an accommodation and who took no unprotected, unpaid leaves of absence during the preceding year, shall receive a payment of \$300 on or before August 31st of the following year.

If a member used a COVID leave and was approved and reimbursed their sick time, it will not be used against them in regard to this stipend.

If a member uses sick time for the purpose of bereavement as in #5 on pg.10 of the contract, then that will be counted as sick time in regard to this stipend. (see below)

Pg.10 #5. No more than three (3) sick leave days can be converted to bereavement leave for the death of any person not referenced in section C (1) or (2).

If you have any questions regarding this stipend please speak to your building rep.

I want to thank you for your continued support to our union. Without all of you we would never succeed in accomplishing all that we have set out to do.

Have a great rest of the year and a wonderful summer!

Angela



Area VP for Special Education - Patti Richards

Union Strong All Day Long



Happy almost summer! I can't believe how fast this school year has gone by. I want to take a moment to congratulate all of our BEES retirees. You have all made a lasting impact on this agency and the students we serve, and I wish you all the best with your future endeavors.

I always hear people saying that they want to get more involved with the union, so I thought I would share how I did it. For the past 20+ years I have had the opportunity to work in some capacity with our BEES Board. I first became involved as a building rep, and I learned so much over the years in this role. But it was when I was a rep that I was able to see firsthand how hard our BEES Board worked and knew I wanted a more active role. I then became appointed to the board as a Grievance Officer. This position provided an in-depth view of all the Board does for its members. While serving in this position, I decided to run and was elected to the Area VP for Special Education position. The opportunities I have had during my tenure in this role have been so positive. I truly enjoyed working closely with your building representatives to advocate for all of you, and at times coming to your programs to meet directly with you. I thank you all for your unlimited support and the kindness you have shown me will never be forgotten. However, I am retiring in June and Mrs. Dana Sayers will be appointed to my position. Dana has served as a union representative for many years and most recently she holds the Grievance Officer Position. I am confident that she will be a valuable advocate for all of you.

If you are unable to run for a position at this time, but still want to be involved, please know there are other ways to help. In your building, seek out new hires and share the benefits of union membership, let them know who their building rep is so they can sign up. In the community, volunteer at the union phone banks when needed and download the Member Action Center App to take action and sign up for email and text alerts.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy summer. I hope you have time to relax and spend time with family and friends.

I will miss you all,

Patti

Area VP for Itinerants/SAS - Kristin Ericson Abbruzzese



Things to Remember

I want to wish a Happy End of the Year to All. I hope this article finds you well and your year was productive and not too stressful. I would also like to send a big congratulations to all the members retiring this year and wish you lots of luck, happiness and health. At the present time, we have several related services/itinerants retiring so you will probably see some new faces in September. If you have a friend or relative that is interested in working in a school setting, I hope you send them our way for an interview. I feel we always get the best candidates through recommendations from our current members. The elephant in the room right now would be where are we with negotiations and our contract. I can say that both sides are still negotiating in good faith at the time that I am writing this article. My hope for all members of the Blue contract is that when you are reading this article we are all very happy with the outcome of the negotiations. Only time will tell. I know many members of the Blue contract had requested their assignment for next year to be in a different building especially with Masera re-opening, so please reach out if you did not receive one of the (3) choices on your preference sheet. Please remember though there are openings created when people retire and sometimes these openings need to be filled by current employees not just new members being hired, this has always been the case. It is always nice to hire new members however Administration needs to balance out programs filling them with current members and new members for the success of the students and the programs. DON'T forget to get all your (15) staff development hours done for the year, it is part of our contract. If you have your 75 credits and receive a stipend for your staff development hours keep an eye on receiving that next school year. Also, make sure if you are entitled to getting the stipend for having a license you get the stipend in your June check. You will ONLY get this stipend if you have an up to date license on file with HR. Last end of the year reminder, DON'T forget to open up a 403B to have a place to roll over your sick days if you have 200 days banked already. If the agency does not have on file that you have an active 403B and you are entitled to this money you will lose it and you will not get it back.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer. Please feel free to contact me at beesvpitin@gmail.com and SHS 631-6221240. Summer time it best to email me 😊

Kristin

Membership Coordinator - Adrian Grube



A Happy Hive

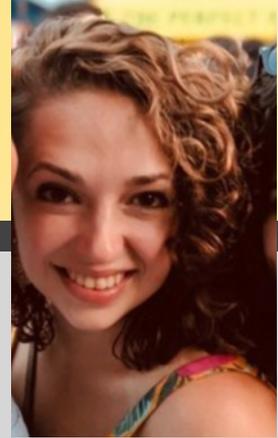
What an awesome year! I hope all of you can look back on the year and feel a sense of pride in the work we have done. For those of you working summer school I hope the summer brings you joy in seeing our students and the fun activities that come with summer school. For those of you who will be home, or finding other activities or work for the summer I hope what you do brings you happiness. Whatever your plans are this summer I encourage all of you to take a moment to read up on Fix Tier 6. This is a campaign that affects many of us. Information can be found on the NYSUT website, on FixTier6.org, ask your building rep or any one of us on the board and for those looking to get involved this provides one more opportunity. I wish you all an amazing summer and will see you in September, ready for the 2024/2025 school year.

Adrian



Treasurer - Rachael Klahn

Budgeting the BEES



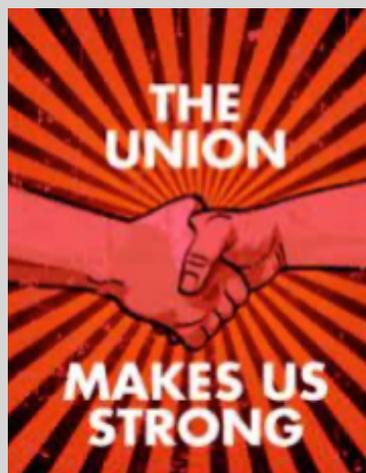
Congratulations on another wonderful year at ESBOCES! This was a long and challenging year, but with the support of our fellow members we made it. Each year brings new challenges and joyous moments, which helps us to learn and grow. We are lucky to work with such wonderful people to share these experiences with.

I would like to wish a happy retirement to all our members who are celebrating a wonderfully successful career! A special shout out is in order for Patti Richards, a member of the executive board that has left quite an imprint on us all. I speak for many when I say that I am lucky to have known and learned from Patti. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike! All of our retirees have worked hard over the years and have touched so many. I hope you all enjoy this next chapter in your lives.

I look forward to a great summer session with some of you and for others I wish a safe and relaxing summer vacation! Though the school year is over, our unwavering commitment to the members continues to keep us busy even in the summer months. We will see you again in September!

Sincerely,

Rachael



Grievance Officer - Dana Sayers



Enjoy the Summer!

Congratulations to those that are retiring or retired during the year. What an exciting time for you!

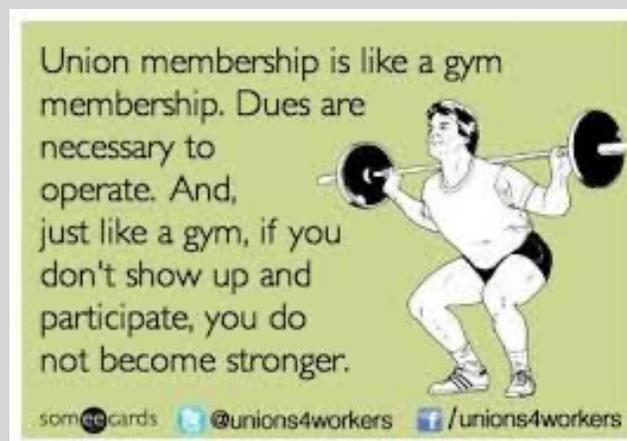
Can you believe that another school year is coming to an end? We made it! During the next few weeks, graduations and moving up ceremonies will be taking place, classrooms and offices packed and a new middle school will be opening. Such an exciting time!

I am happy to share with you all that we had another successful year where we did not file any grievances.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer!

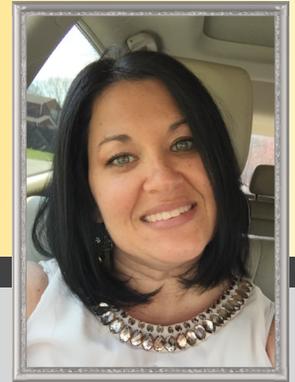
Dana

Dana



Social Chair - Danielle Ibba-Morabito

Let's BEE Social



Another year, we made it, great job everyone! The summer will fly by and before we know it, it will be time to start the 24-25 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". Please check our web page: <http://www.beesbeacon.org/> regularly and the Bees Facebook page. The retiree list with some great pictures from the retirement party will be up and there is always information that might be useful.

We hope by now everyone has their new BEES T-Shirts. I would encourage you to set up a union t-shirt day when you all wear your shirts! The members asked for them, so let's show them off! Have them send me some pictures of everyone in their new shirts for our socials, they can send them right to my email address, or they can send them to you and you can send them to me. It's so awesome to be part of this union. Together we are stronger and united.

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 send me an email. My email address is: daniellesocialchairbees@gmail.com Have a great, healthy, and safe summer!

Danielle

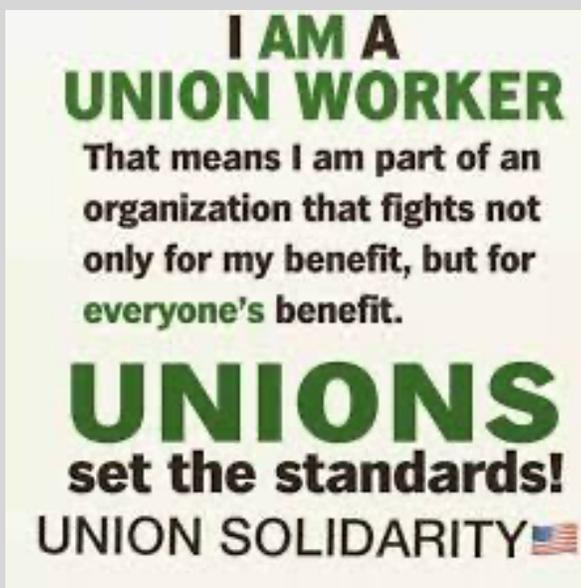
Recording Secretary - Tiffany Robinson



Nice Notes

Hello fellow BEES members! Hard to believe that we are nearing the end of another school year! With the beautiful weather now upon us, I'm hoping that everyone is wrapping up this school year with a happy and healthy mindset. It is very important that our members stay involved and informed, so please familiarize yourself with all available resources and feel free to reach out. you have an E-Board that is dedicated to their members. With all the hiring that is taking place agency wide, I would like to say welcome to all the new members, and encourage them to get involved because all voices matter, old and new! Feel free to always reach out. Congratulations to our retirees, enjoy the next well deserved chapter of your life! Thank you for your many years of dedicated service. Solidarity is what we want, we must be together, the act of supporting each other is what shows solidarity. Thank you for standing by your union!! Hoping that everyone whether they be working summer school or not have a happy, healthy, peaceful summer!

Tiffany



Retiree Chapter Chairperson - Terry Kalb

Radiant Retirees



When you retire from ES BOCES you may think that your union years are behind you, but actually, you should be UNION FOR LIFE! Why? Your hard earned pension and benefits, Social Security, Medicare and those premium reimbursements are not all cemented in place. There are always political and economic pressures that put them at risk for reductions. In fact, political attacks on public education can impact future union negotiations and can impact retiree benefits. It is our union, even in our retirement, that strengthens our collective voices and protects our pension fund and benefits. A \$35 annual fee gives you BEES membership in our Retiree Chapter - and the first year of that membership is free - the BEES gift to you when you provide us with your email and contact information. The membership allows you access to all the additional programs and benefits you can view on the nysut.org/benefits website. It gives you representation and advocacy on the BEES Executive Board, and support when you have benefits questions or other related issues that may arise in retirement. So, take your union with you into retirement and be UNION FOR LIFE!

Please send your personal email and contact information to me at terrykalb@yahoo.com, or if you do not have an email, send your mailing address to me at Terry Kalb, PO Box 798, Wading River, NY 11792. You will no longer be able to use your ES BOCES email because it will disappear on your last day of work. The email you provide will only be used for union communication and never be given to any third party. With your enrollment in our Retiree Chapter you will receive a newsletter and invitation to our fall and spring retiree meetings. We also provide a Zoom link for our meetings so even if you head somewhere warm, you can still stay connected with your union!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer!

Stay well, and stay connected!

Terry Kalb
BEES Retiree Chapter President

Spotlight on Our BEES Community

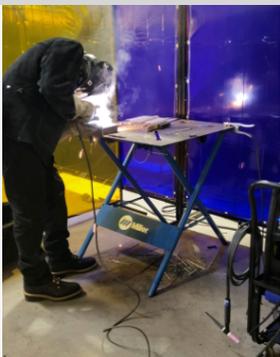
Sharing the Spotlight!

This issue of "Spotlight on our Community," is dedicated to all the staff that go above and beyond and work so hard to make sure their students shine when they have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned. It has been a busy past few months of our members doing some great things. Congratulations to all!

Our first spotlight is on teacher Jamie Palermo and Assistant Gina Hough who teach Introduction to Cosmetology at ICC. Their student placed 2nd Place in the Junior Fantasy category in the 2024 Annual Fran Cook Memorial Evening and Fantasy Hairstyling Competition. This is a remarkable accomplishment, especially after learning that it has been 27 years since someone from ICC has placed in this competition!



Next, Welding instructor Taylor Terhaar and assistant Marc Negrin whose Welding students took 1st place in CTE welding, 2nd place in basic welding and 3rd place in action skills at the regional SkillsUSA championship held in SCCC ion Brentwood.



Spotlight on Our BEES Community

Sharing the Spotlight!

We continue to shine the spotlight as we congratulate our Computer graphic arts teacher Cora Weule-Sparewasser and Assistant Meg Healy for teaching the skills needed for their students to win a bronze Medal at the NY States Skills competition held in Syracuse NY in the promotional Bulletin board competition.



Finally, I would like to wrap up this school year's Spotlight on our community by thanking Speech pathologist Donna Morey for organizing and the Staff at ICC for donating so many wonderful baskets for The Islip Career Centers 1st Annual Themed Basket "FUNdraiser," 31 themed baskets were donated and raised over \$5,000 that will be used to help provide for our students and families especially during the holidays with any essentials that are needed as well as offer assistance for students who want to participate in SKILLS USA.



It truly has been a great year with so many in our BEES Community doing amazing things, remember if you know someone who is doing something extra-special or going above and beyond be sure to let me know because everyone deserves a little spotlight in their lives.



BEES

BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk

Union Strong

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