

Volume 35 Issue 4

**June
2022**

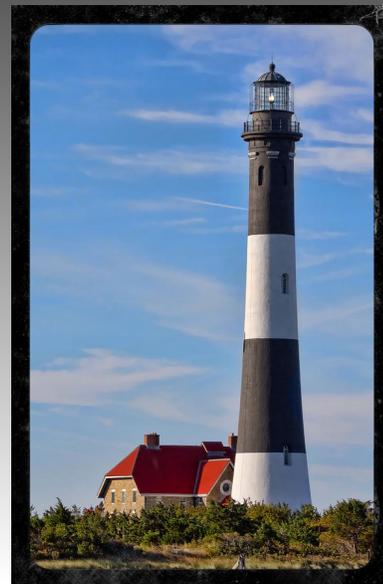
AFT Local 3037/ NYSUT Local 22-220

The BEES Beacon

BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk



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



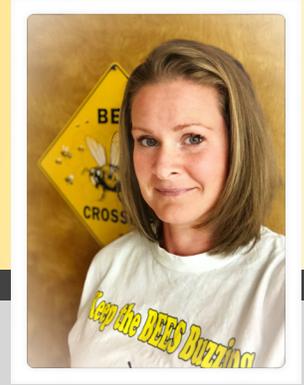
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President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Union Strong

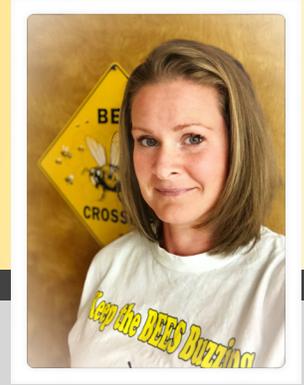


In some ways, it seems that June has come too quickly; my son is already heading off to Kindergarten come September! Yet, in other ways, it seems the end of the school year couldn't have come fast enough. Whether it felt long or short for you, I want to thank each of you, our BEES members, for working through all the ups and downs this school year brought us. You showed up for our students each day and did the very best job you could. Some days were stressful, some scary; some days you may have been working through your own personal challenges. Nevertheless, each day you arrive to work to make the day better for the students in your care. Whatever role you hold at ES BOCES, know that you made a difference this year. You have made a difference in my life. Working with so many BEES members has given me the opportunity to meet so many different people and learn many things. Whether as an Executive Board, we are working on large-scale negotiations or smaller, individual issues, we are always working for our members. There is no better feeling than being able to help someone, and I am grateful for the support of the Executive Board and the building representatives that work so hard to help everyone who reaches out to us.

I wasn't so sure how this year was going to go: was it going to be easier or harder than last year? Reflecting back on it now, I wouldn't say it was either, just different. We began with vaccination statuses and testing mandates pushed on us by the state. We were able to successfully negotiate for testing during school hours and test kits to be provided while many employees in districts had to test on their own time. We continued to struggle with staff shortages, which we worked throughout the school year to address with the agency. Many new staff have been hired due to successful job fairs the agency has held. We are hopeful this trend will continue. Executive Board members and myself, have met with different groups of BEES members to address specific concerns. The E-Board is dedicated to remaining open, to listening to our members' concerns and suggestions.

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Union Strong



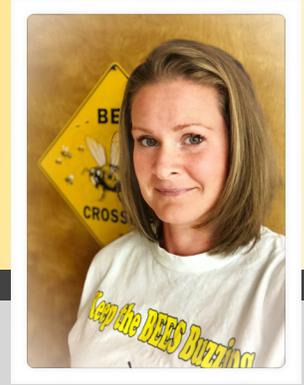
There was an unprecedented amount of turnover throughout the agency this year, with more than half of the staff in Human Resources being new in the past few years. For us as union leaders, this means forming new working relationships, sharing historical practices and finding new ways to move forward. I am happy to say that this year was a good beginning to the start of a shift within the agency. There were many productive discussions about the type of work that our BEES members do here at ES BOCES and how that work can be better recognized, encouraged and rewarded. We were able to successfully negotiate two agreements (pre-contract negotiation), which is something not traditionally done, as a show of good faith moving in this new direction. A negotiating team will begin formally negotiating the Yellow contract in the coming months, and I encourage those members in this contract to reach out to your building representatives if you have thoughts you want to share on the topic. I also encourage you to attend your building level meetings for updates on the negotiation process.

We have updated copies of the seniority lists as well as the Sick Leave Bank lists. If you would like to check your seniority number, please send an email to your Area VP requesting your number. The Area VP is only able to supply you with your personal information, so please do not request anyone else's number. The Sick Leave Bank is a contractual benefit in both the Blue and Yellow contracts. I strongly urge you to double check and make sure that you are enrolled in this valuable benefit.

TOGETHER
WE CAN ACHIEVE MORE

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Union Strong



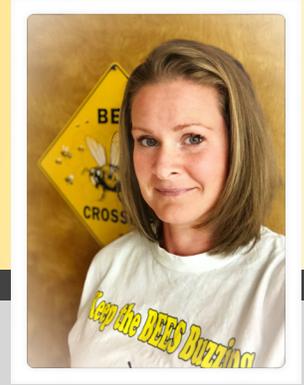
Typically, you would have enrolled in this benefit upon initially being hired, however, sometimes we miss out on opportunities like this one. We have had multiple scenarios this year when members could have used the sick bank to remain on payroll and fully covered by insurance, but could not because they had not joined the sick bank. This contractual benefit could make the difference between being paid or not or having insurance coverage or not if you run out of sick time. Please email your Area VP or building representative to check your sick bank status. If you are not on the list and would like to join, you will have to donate one day to the bank and can join by contacting Esther Wells. You can read more about the Sick Leave Bank benefit in your contract. If you can't find your contract or do not have one, you can view your contract on the ES BOCES website at <https://www.esboces.org/Page/3192>

If you retired, or are retiring this year, I would like to wish you a heartfelt congratulations! Your service and dedication to the agency and the students you have worked with will always be remembered. Your name will no doubt cross the lips of students as they recount stories of their school days to their friends and families in years to come. What greater gift is there than that, to be remembered with fondness. As you prepare for this next exciting chapter in your life, we wish you all the best the world has to offer. As I said to my friend who is a retiree this year, "You have climbed the mountain and now it is time to enjoy the view." Congratulations to you all!

A special congratulations to two of our Executive Board members, Michelle Tinter and Rosaria Catania. Both of these women have served on the Board for several years and have been both mentors and friends to me. I have learned many things from each of them, and although I am saddened to see them go, I am truly excited for their next adventure to begin. They both have palm trees in their future! You will be missed, my friends. Thank you for all the years of dedicated service you have given to the BEES.

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Union Strong

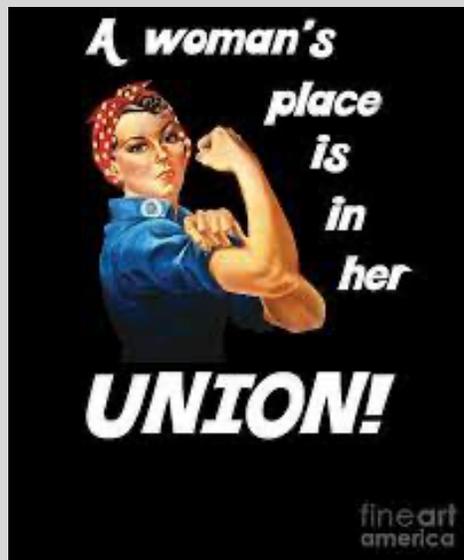


I would like to thank the building representative and the Executive Board for their ongoing support this year. The job of President can be a difficult one, but one that is made easier by those around you. I would not be able to hold this position without their ideas, knowledge, conversation, creativity and friendship. Thank you. I would also like to thank my family, who accept that my earbuds are now part of my ears, and that Zoom is part of dinnertime. I am blessed to have so much love and support in my life that makes it possible for me to be at my best for our membership.

While I cannot predict what next year will bring in the ways of the world, I can say that I am feeling confident in what we have accomplished thus far and what we will accomplish moving forward. I wish you all a restful, joyful and healthy summer!

In Solidarity,

Asha



Executive Vice President - Al Rios

Happy Summer!



A very happy end of the year everyone!

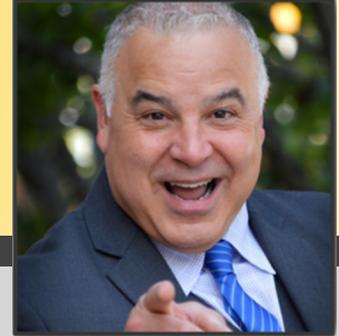
At this year's NYSUT Representative Assembly in Albany, I noticed that every single guest speaker from our Governor, to our senators to the NYSUT Executive board had one resounding message they asked us to bring back to our members and that message was, "Thank you." Every speaker recognized that educator's statewide gave above & beyond and in some cases sacrificed their own personal needs. They recognized that families statewide now know the challenges ALL educators have to make learning fun and interesting. They experienced firsthand how difficult it was to keep their own children focused and on task, and they realized how much work, energy and devotion educators give to their profession and time and time again they said, "please bring back the message of thank you for doing all that you do."

Here we are preparing to end another challenging school year and I want to thank every member of the BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk. It is because of your unwavering support, your professionalism and dedication to our students that helped our students get back on track and experience success this year. It has indeed been a challenging year for all of us and it is because of all of your hard work that we have completed this year successfully. We all recognized that there is no substitute to in person learning and we were ready, willing and able to support our students and school to make this year the very best we possibly could.

I am also looking forward to working with all our members for the next 3 years as I enter my second term as one of your Executive Vice Presidents. Thank you all for your support. I know there are many things we need to work on and look back at from this past year and I hope we can now channel our time, energy and support on making our learning environment as effective, and safe as possible for our students and staff.

Executive Vice President - Al Rios

Happy Summer!



I ask you all to consider becoming more active in your local BEES chapter. Ask how you can become involved and become an integral part in what seems like the forever-changing world of education. Next year there will be building representative elections and we want and need you to “step up to the plate” and become involved with YOUR local. We are the largest Local on Long Island and because of our size and the span of our programs geographically, it is challenging to gather the thoughts, concerns and questions of all our members, but we are constantly striving to improve communication. Whether this is your 30th year or first year, your concerns are important and need to be recognized. We do not live in a perfect world, missteps are bound to happen and it is up to ALL of us, together, to strive to make changes that will better serve all our members.

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 and I hope to see you at future honorariums.

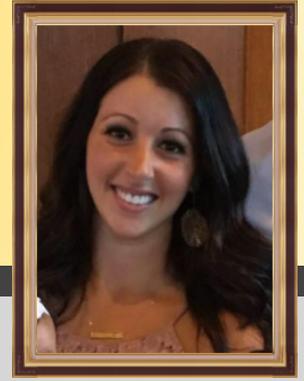
I wish all our members a very happy, healthy summer vacation. Take a couple of minutes to look back at all you have done and the lives you have affected. Congratulations, we have done a great job together. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

All the best,

Al



Executive Vice President - Amanda Pica



Better Together

June 2022.... A few years ago we were all wondering what this would look like and although it's very different than any of us imagined I can confidently say there have been many moments of success amongst all the chaos. Our voice is being heard, this is only the beginning. We are at the starting line ready to go. This next year is the most crucial. As we approach the beginning stages of negotiations I encourage each and every one of you to get involved, voice your concerns, and stick together.

June 2022 also means warmer weather, sunshine, and celebrating those members who are retiring or moving on. I want to congratulate each and every one of you. I hope this new chapter in life brings you a lot of rest, relaxation, and happiness. I wish you the best in the future. We will miss all of you!!

I also want to thank my colleagues and E-Board for working so tirelessly day in and day out. I can proudly say that we have made some great strides this year. I look forward to another great year.

Please take this time to recharge your batteries, spend time with loved ones, and enjoy some sunshine!

If at any time you need to contact me please email me at picaparavp@gmail.com .

- Amanda



Explore all your union membership has to offer!



It's never too early
(or too late) to make
plans!

Find out how NYSUT
Member Benefits can
help you make the
most of your summer.

Check out the **MB Discounts & Deals program** in the **Shopping, Travel & Personal** section of our website to start planning (and saving) today.

Thinking of your next big adventure? A family trip or summer vacation? Member Benefits Discounts & Deals offers great savings of up to 50% on flights, hotels, car rentals, attractions and more when planning a trip.

Whether you want to explore other countries or the United States, Member Benefits Discounts & Deals has you covered. From London to Miami to Las Vegas to Paris, there are an abundance of other savings available as well! Restaurants, museums, theme parks, walking or bike tours, ziplining, sightseeing cruises, city exploration activities ... the list goes on. You can access these deals either online or through the MB Deals mobile app.



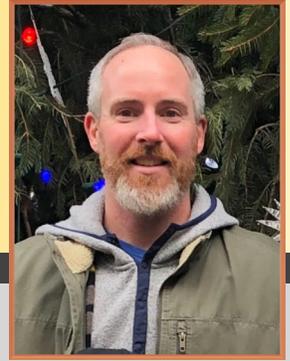
Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left,
visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or
calling 800-626-8101.



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

May/June 2022

First Vice President - Keith Flynn



Your Voice, Your Union

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend, it's the unofficial start of summer and the home stretch towards the end of the school year. Also, it's a time 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 2 of our Executive Board Members, Rosaria Catania and Michelle Tinter. Their dedication and resourcefulness will be missed. I wish all of our retirees a heartfelt Congratulations!!!

As you have probably read by now, 123 of the 124 school board budgets have passed for next year. On May 17th, members all over the island came out to vote in favor of pro-education school board candidates and to vote in favor of propositions to authorize many of the badly needed improvements to our local school buildings. With the federal stimulus and Governor Hochul's strong commitment to education, school districts will be provided with additional funding and services to meet the student's needs amid the pandemic. 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.

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.

Lastly, there is a tremendous amount of work that needs to be done over the next 2 years. Both the Yellow (2023) and the Blue Contracts (2024) will expire. There could be many of our colleagues looking to retire under their current contract. Staying united and working together is incredibly important as we head into next year.

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

Be well,

Keith

Area VP for Para Educators - Angela Ritchie



Amazing SRPs

Dear Fellow BEES Members,

I hope everyone is enjoying the nice weather we are having now!

This school year is finally coming to a close and I would recommend that all necessary paperwork is complete, especially if it needs to go to H.R.

Members have contacted me in regard to certain concerns and I would like to provide the following information on summer school and Worker's Compensation.

- Summer school is non-contractual. If you have any questions please contact Human Resources. I did reach out to their secretaries and was informed that the summer school pay for Paras is 1/200 of your 2022-23 salary. (Yes, the increase is part of your salary). Any additional information will have to come from H.R.
- When a member is injured at work and needs to file a Worker's Compensation claim, they must notify their employer within 30 days, but it is best to do it as soon as possible.
- Make sure the paperwork is filled out correctly and is signed by your administrator.
- Keep in contact with Travelers(the Insurance Company that handles Boces Workman's Comp) and return their calls.
- Supply Dr. notes, when asked, in a timely manner. (remember only HR can ask for these)
- Please keep all emails you receive from H.R.
- Make sure the Dr. treating you takes Workman's Comp cases.
- Do not give your insurance card or pay a copay for Workman's Comp cases.
- Reach out to your Building Rep. for any additional information.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and please feel free to contact me if you need assistance.

Thank you for supporting our Union!

Angela Ritchie



Staying Strong



Congratulations to all our retirees. You have served the students entrusted to your care with kindness, and now it is time for you to enjoy your next chapter. I wish you all much happiness and good health as you embark on your retirement journey. NYSUT has one of the most active and successful union retiree programs in the country. Please be sure to check in with Terry Kalb, our Retiree Chapter Chairperson and be sure to save your copy of the contract as the benefits provided in that contract are yours.

In September, when we returned to school, we were not sure what curves the pandemic would challenge us with. For many, it was and still is the daily staff shortages that are affecting not only us, but all districts across Long Island. This created a less than ideal situation across all buildings. As a staff we stood together to ensure that our students continued to strive and achieve. The work you have done is always appreciated and it does not go unnoticed.

As a union, we have remained strong! Our goal is to provide the members with a voice. This year, the Executive Board has worked tirelessly to provide support, guidance, and advice when needed. I hope that you all had an opportunity to take part in your monthly building union meetings, ask questions, and be provided answers. Although the answers were not always what you wanted to hear, your voices were always heard.

Area VP for Special Education - Patti Richards



Staying Strong

We always say that knowledge is power. This summer, I invite you to look at your contract and acquaint yourself with all the benefits we have. Visit the NYSUT website and educate yourself with the many additional benefits offered to dues paying members.

As a NYSUT member the union continues to advocate for you. They worked with the legislature to get the Governor to suspend the APPR process again for the current year and will continue to address the APPR process. Please download the NYSUT Action Member app or go to mac.nysut.org to see and take part in the many ways the union is advocating for you.

Lastly, as we prepare for summer vacation, take time to be with family and friends. Soak up some sun and read a good book.

Enjoy,

Patti



Area VP for Itinerants/SAS - Kristin Ericson Abbruzzese



Looks Like We Made It!

This year unfortunately has not been a typical year along with all the related services having to learn how to set up and use a Google schedule for audit purposes which took precedence. I think I may finally have it, I think... Sometimes issues come up and we need to address those issues first and then return to our original plan which at the time was to address some concerns throughout the related services daily responsibilities. I do always encourage members to please keep reaching out when you have a concern, question or issue. Usually your colleague may have the same question and as a team we can address these issues. As a union we try our hardest to resolve situations for members however sometimes things may be a little more complicated and/or need several others involved which takes time. Thank you all for your patience.

Some end of year housekeeping; please 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, you will not get them back once the year ends. Also, don't forget to complete the (15) staff development hours and send in the form to HR at the end of the school year as it is part of our contract.

I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe summer. Please feel free to contact me at SHS 631-622-1240 or Beesvpitin@gmail.com. Please update my contact information since I do check my old contact information but not as frequently so there may be a delay in getting back to you if so. Also, if you feel like you or a family member may need more support or are having a hard time reach out to ESBOCES EAP it is confidential and there for you if you need it ;) 631-289-0480.

Kristin

Area VP for CTE/SCE - Rosaria Catania

Until We Meet Again



Hello Colleagues and CTE Members!

It's truly hard to believe that I am writing my very last article as an E-Board member as I am sailing into retirement in October. I have been so honored to serve as your BEES Representative- first as a Building Rep. then as Area Vice President for CTE/SCE. I was once so unaware of all the behind the scenes efforts to uphold our contractual rights by our union that happen every day. It was only after becoming active in the BEES union that my eyes were opened to the never ending list of concerns brought to the union by our members. Each and every one is attended to and members receive the very best representation. I can honestly say that I have witnessed jobs saved and beneficial agreements come to fruition because of our union's strength and on-going positive relationship with the agency.

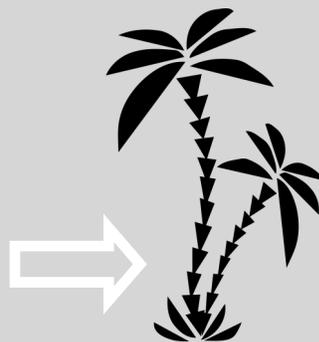
As summer approaches and we are all exhausted and badly in need of a re-charge, please know that I appreciate all of the positive feedback from my CTE members that I have received over the years. It is my hope that I have served you well. As I hand over the proverbial baton to Diedre Pettit, I am confident and excited that she will hit the ground running and be a great Area VP.

Please never stop doing the great things for kids that you do now. For many, we are their only hope for a bright future in the world of work. Whether or not they choose to continue in their current field of study, remember, you have taught them far more valuable lessons than how to do a haircut or solder a pipe. You have been their mentors, absentee parents, friends and educators. Be proud of all the hats you wear and never stop giving, even when it seems like it's all in vain. You are changing young lives every day and are true heroes. You DO make a difference.

I know many of you will be following in my retirement footsteps soon. Attend your retirement workshops and plan well. There's a lot to know.

Until we meet again, I wish you all health and happiness in your lives. I will certainly miss my BEES family and am only a phone call away. Reach me at (516) 729-9397. In the winter I will be answering from under a

Rosaria



Contractual Benefits Officer - Nick DeBlanco



It Benefits You to Know

Happy spring time everyone.

There are so many things in the news these days that could make anyone feel glum. Economically it seems there are many hurdles in front of us, things we haven't seen in many, many years. I'm an old timer.... and I promise you it's going to get better. Although I am quite confident that it's going to get better, it's going to be painful in the short term before we see some relief. I thought I would add some suggestions that may just help ease that pain, even if it's only slightly. Being part of a huge local regional and national union gives you several advantages that you really should utilize. Small wins and medium discounts all add up to savings. Because we have a large body of members, we have buying power and because we have buying power, companies are willing to give us discounts in hopes of repeated business. Many of these things can actually help take the sting out of the current economic condition. Your union is strong, your membership is secure and your voices are heard. Being a member in solidarity is security. Thank you all for being members of our union. Before you purchase, before you sign on that line before you spend your hard earned dollars, go to the union website for NYSUT member benefits and take advantage of the savings. There are additional savings on furniture, clothing, and all types of shopping. Before you make that purchase, be sure you can't get it cheaper with a union membership discount.

Check out these links that offer a discount on the things that everyone's talking about. High heating oil cost, there's a discount for that. Housing costs are up and we also have a mortgage discount. Have a fantastic summer!

Home heating oil <https://heatusa.com/nysut/>

Mortgage. <https://mortgagecorp.com/nysut/>

Happy Saving!

Nick



Membership Secretary - Lisa Mongiello



A Happy Hive

As I write my final article at the end of my term as Membership Coordinator, I have reflected on all that I have learned in my time as a team member of the Executive Board.

It all started with Advocacy Day when I had the opportunity to meet some of our union leaders at the time. Coming from CTE, many of the staff come from industry before their positions in the classroom, and I will be honest that as one of them, I had much learning to do when it came to an understanding of the value of being a union member! I began by stepping up to building union representative. There was a training weekend at the beginning of my position. It set the foundation for me to see all the benefits of being a union member and the vast scope of all a union has in place to support those it represents. I did not realize at that time that so many of the benefits of my position were negotiated within our union contract, including sick and personal days, health insurance, salary schedules, and so much more. At the time, the Janus case decision was looming, and I learned how an entire contract could disappear if enough members did not join or remain union members. I realized how important it was to be involved and share this information with other members.

When I made the transition and pursued a position on the Executive Board, I never realized how much more would happen in the role before we navigated the pandemic. Being a member of the BOCES Leadership Council, Committee of 100, NYSUT Political Action Committee, and continuing BOCES Advocacy Day, I met so many incredible union leaders working diligently to support and safeguard their staff in schools across the state. I had also been accepted to the NYSUT Leadership Institute, but unfortunately, it would have run in the Summer of 2020. While I did not have the opportunity to attend and build upon my individual skills, I was able to see how the union that serves our members would work together in unprecedented times to support our members when they needed it most. During that time, in my role as Membership Coordinator, I have navigated the attempt to transition from paper to electronic member enrollment and the rollout of two electronic NYSUT platforms to assist members in joining and managing their union benefits.

Membership Secretary - Lisa Mongiello



A Happy Hive

Despite all that the last few years have presented us, I have watched hundreds of new staff join us, and I can't thank those in our membership who share the importance of the union with new hires enough. Our buildings are so spread out that the staff in each building will often know new members long before I get their names. Reaching out to newly hired staff and sharing information about the union and the importance of being a union member is essential for the strength of our voice and all that our union can do for its members. That responsibility falls on each of us as members as we continue to share the message of strength in numbers.

The end of my term and all I have dedicated over the last several years is bittersweet. Still, I know our Executive Board will continue to work hard for our membership as they have demonstrated recently with MOA's and ongoing support of our members in need. It has been an honor to grow and serve alongside many dedicated leaders. I leave this role to serve in my profession as a licensed veterinary technician, as my colleagues and all our furred, scaled, and feathered patients are in dire need of support. As we enter summer, I hope you have time to take a break, spend time with your loved ones, and take care of yourself. We've made it through a tough couple of years, and we all could use some peace and time to recharge. It has been a privilege to serve on the Executive Board, and I am thankful for my time and all I have learned throughout these years.

In solidarity,

Lisa Mongiello

Treasurer - Michelle Tinter



Budgeting the BEES

Welcome to spring and our final BEES Beacon for the 2021-2022 school year. Another year we can say “Oh, what a year it has been.” Challenging yes, and yet comforting to know we have learned to navigate and chart our new way of educating amongst a pandemic. Our students and colleagues have risen to a most unprecedented measure, and we are continually humbled by our accomplishments. Through this all we have moved ahead and continued to provide the best educational experiences for the children we work with.

Traditionally we celebrate our union members, friends and colleagues who are retiring from service. Unfortunately, we cannot honor you once again this year at our end of the year Retiree Honorarium, however I would like to congratulate you and wish you all much health, happiness and enjoyment into retirement! Thank you for your years of dedication and service to the agency and for being a supportive union member. I would also like to acknowledge Rosaria Catania, my colleague on the E-Board who is retiring from service as well. Thank you for your dedication, laughs and service to our union members.

Now it is my turn to say goodbye. I will be retiring in the fall of 2022 after 22 years of service to the agency. Although I will miss all the wonderful people that I have met, the students whose lives I have impacted and who have impacted mine, the friendships that I cherish, and the differences I have made as a member of the Executive Board, I am excited to begin this new chapter of my life. I am heading South to our new home in Florida where I will be playing golf, relaxing by the pool and of course playing Bingo!

Although it is not goodbye just yet, I am excited to be handing the checkbook over to Rachael Khlan, your new Treasurer. Rachael will do an amazing job serving you all. Together we will complete the budget and audit for 2022. You are all in good hands with each of our E-Board members old and new. THANK YOU all for your trust, support and well wishes!

So long for now,

Michelle



Treasurer Intern- Rachael Klahn

Learning the Ropes

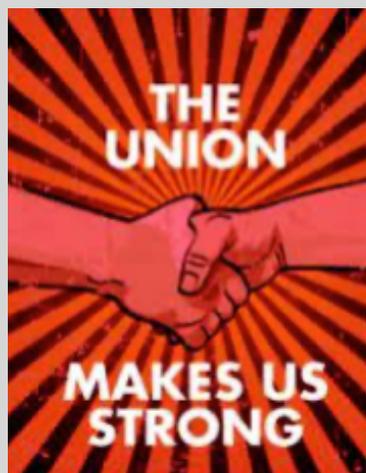


I would like to start by congratulating everyone on another wonderful school year! It has been a challenging year, but a rewarding one. This was my first year being a member of our Executive Board and I have learned so much from these wonderful, strong, and intelligent people. I look forward to being your Treasurer next year under the guidance of the one and only, Michelle Tinter!

This year we have some truly remarkable people retiring and starting the next part of their journey. To those members I say, thank you for all your hard work, for impacting so many students, and imparting your knowledge onto the people you worked alongside every day. I hope retired life is good to you!

Whether you are working summer school, or you will be poolside with your loved ones – I hope every member enjoys the summer!

Rachael



Grievance Officer - Deirdre Pettit

See You in September



I am happy to report that the BEES members have gone another year without filing a grievance. When I speak to union members from local districts, grievances are a regular occurrence and often a cause for low morale, anger, feeling unheard and members using more of their sick time.

This Executive Board with Asha at the helm, is a force to be reckoned with. In a year when most of us feel burned out and are re-learning how to live in a world that is so uncertain, Para's received a well deserved increase and teachers who choose to work this summer also got a pay raise. I know that in my 15 years at ESBOCES nothing like this has ever happened mid contract.

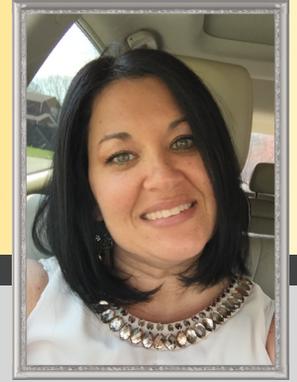
I want to thank Rosaria for her years of service as the Area VP for CTE/SCE. Rosaria has always been available for advice and support. Recently, I had the opportunity to watch her in action as she fought for our member's rights; I have big shoes to fill. I have been trained well and will continue to work hard for our members.

Enjoy your summer. I hope each day is long, and the stress of the last few years melts away.

See you in September!!

Deirdre

Social Chair - Danielle Ibba-Morabito



Let's be Social(ly Distanced)

Where does the saying, “stop and smell the roses” come from?

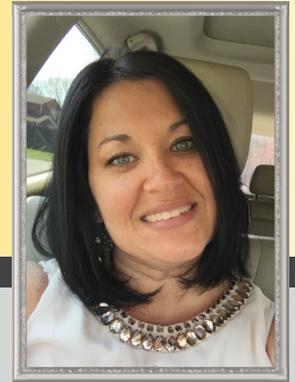
The expression “stop and smell the roses” came into use in the 1960s and is a rephrasing of a sentiment found in an autobiography written by the golfer, Walter Hagen: “Don't hurry. Don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way.” This passage was soon paraphrased as “stop and smell the roses.”

This is the phrase that came to my mind about this year. It seems like time is flying by fast but it is so important to relax; to take time out of one's busy schedule to enjoy or appreciate the beauty of life.

The summer will fly by and before we know it, it will be time to start the 22-23 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.

Due to the pandemic this year we had to cancel the 2022 BEES Retiree Honorarium. Although this is sad news, we do not want you to think we forgot about our amazing retirees. The union would still like to honor all the years of dedication you have shown Eastern Suffolk BOCES and the BEES throughout your years of service by sending a gift to your home by mail. You will also be gifted your first year of dues to the BEES Retiree Chapter run by Retiree Chapter Chair, Terry Kalb. She is looking forward to meeting you. We want to keep in contact with you.

Social Chair - Danielle Ibba-Morabito



Let's be Social(ly Distanced)

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”. Keep a look out for the retiree gift that will come in the mail! Please check our web page: <http://www.beesbeacon.org/> The retiree slide show will be up and there is always information that might be useful.

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

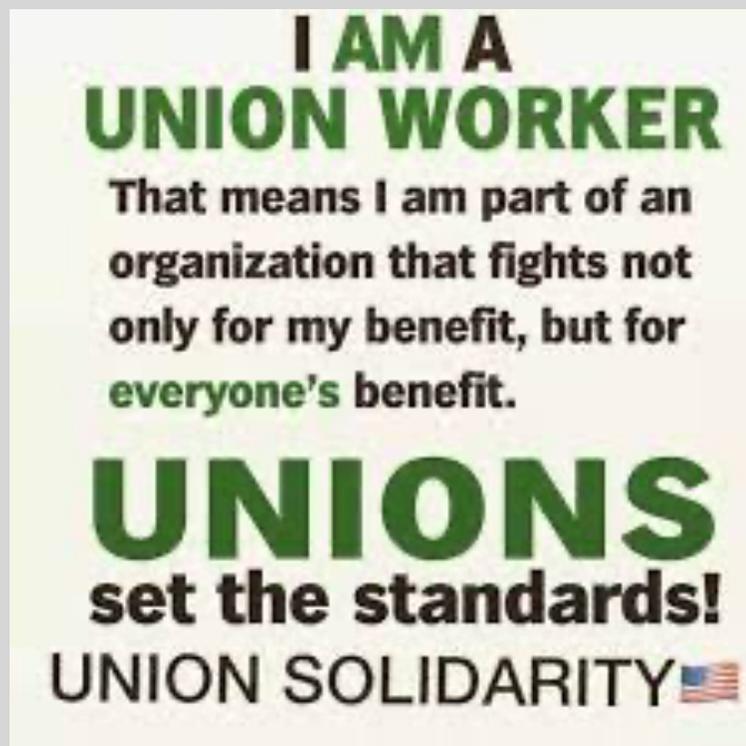
Recording Secretary - Tiffany Robinson

Nice Notes



We have almost made it through another school year!! Although we have met and been faced with challenges, there have also been a lot of positive things happening for our members! What better way to end the school year than on a positive note! I hope that everyone has a happy, healthy summer, and are able to “recharge” and relax a little. As always I want to remind members to always take advantage of available resources and don’t forget about all the useful information that is available on the BEES Beacon website. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year working with this amazing E-Board! Of all the things I have learned, the most important thing is that your E-Board is here for you, and we hear you! Thank you for standing by your union.

Tiffany



Retiree Chapter Chairperson - Terry Kalb

Retiree Review



Hello BEES Retirees!

Here is a special welcome to the BEES Retiree class of 2021-22! We are delighted to have you join us in a well deserved retirement. Despite the stress and challenges we all face as this school year ends for our colleagues and our grandchildren, there are some silver linings that bring us hope. First, we worked in a state where we can depend on the strength of our union and collective power to protect our hard won pensions and benefits. The NYS Retirement System remains one of the best managed in the nation, its funding is secure despite all the volatility of the market in the past few years. For much of that, we can thank the NYSTRS Board of Directors where we NYSUT members have representation, and NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli (Long Island grown in a NYSUT family) who is a wise and stable asset in a state known for its history of bipartisan corruption.

We are also very fortunate to have our union's collective voice through our BEES Retiree Chapter, and our membership in NYSUT Retiree Council 22 which allows us to have representation in our union's decision-making process. Just today (June 2) we learned that a bill to protect our retiree health insurance has passed the NY State Senate and Assembly and is headed for Governor Hochul's signature. Our members emailed and called our state representatives for several weeks to push the passage of that law which will allow our unions to represent retirees when our health coverage is threatened. That pressure worked! That is just one recent example of the power of our collective voices and our VOTE-COPE dollars.

As always, it is my pleasure to represent you on our BEES Executive Board, and to help us individually and collectively to enjoy a safe and comfortable retirement. I truly believe in the slogan #UNION4LIFE, and I hope you do too! Here's hoping that next June, we can safely gather together to celebrate our next BEES Retiree group in person.

Have a wonderful summer, and mark on your calendars that Labor Day is the time to send in your 2022-23 chapter dues! Check for \$35 made out to BEES, PO Box 798, Wading River, NY 11792.

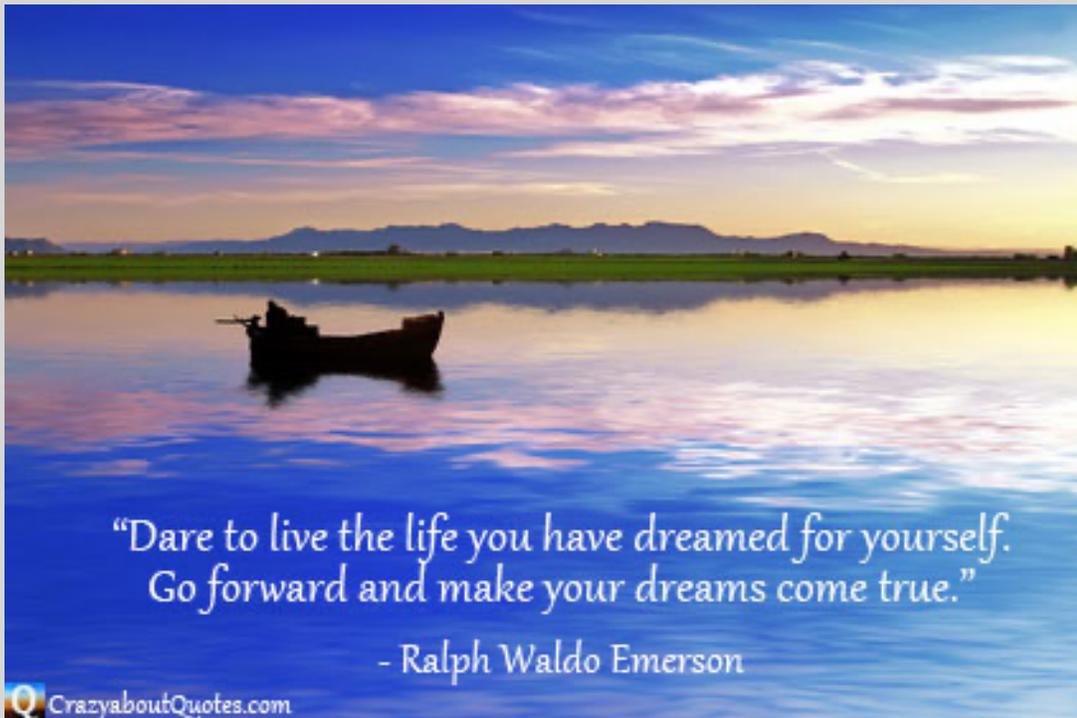
Terry Kalb
BEES Retiree Chapter President

Spotlight on Our BEES Retirees

Congratulations to All of Our Retirees

Dear BEES Retirees,

Thank you for your service to our students and the agency over the years. You have changed lives and touched hearts with the work you have done. We celebrate you and your accomplishments and we wish you the best of luck as you embark on this next exciting adventure! Thank you for being a BEES member! Don't forget to stay in contact with Terry Kalb, our BEES Retiree Chapter Chairperson. As part of our retirement gift to you, your first year of dues to the Retiree Chapter has been paid for! This keeps you enrolled in all the beneficial membership programs through NYSUT and AFT as well as up to date on important topics that can affect retirees. Best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement!





BEES

BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk

Union Strong

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