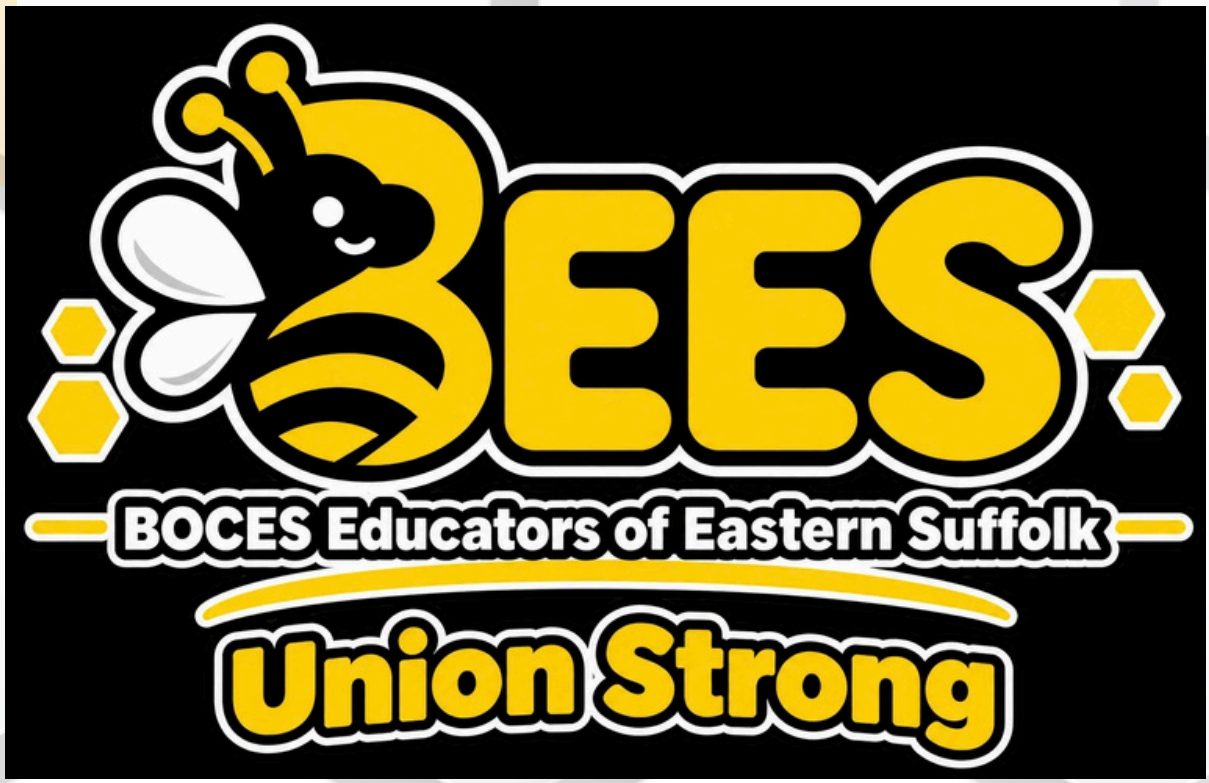
October 2026

The BEES Beacon

The BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk Union Publication



AFT LOCAL 3037/NYSUT LOCAL 22-220

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 1

From the lighthouse in the East to the lighthouse in the West.

October 2026

The BEES Beacon

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MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Dear BEES Members,



Welcome back to the 2026–27 school year! Whether you are returning to a familiar program, adjusting to a new assignment, or joining Eastern Suffolk BOCES for the first time, I hope your year is off to a positive start.

Across our classrooms, programs, and worksites, our members bring extraordinary dedication to their work. You help students feel safe, build confidence, develop independence, and discover opportunities. I am proud to represent you and grateful for everything you contribute to our school communities.

As we settle into the year, the BEES remain focused on clear pathways and procedures, fair compensation, safe workplaces, and a meaningful voice in decisions that shape our work.

This summer, I attended the AFT Convention in Washington, D.C., to stay current on effective representation strategies and strengthen the tools I bring to our local.
The convention's Activist Hub offered training on building power through advocacy, having impactful conversations, creating safer workplaces, and building respect for school support professionals. My training opportunities also included student debt relief and educator leadership around artificial intelligence, two important topics of increasing relevance.

While at the convention, I also spoke with NYSUT President Melinda Person about the paraprofessional compensation proposals I have been developing in collaboration with our Area VP for paraprofessionals, Tiffany Robinson and followed up with our NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist about potential resources connected to NYSUT's "One Job Is Enough" campaign.
Continuing my own learning is part of my responsibility to you. These opportunities help me bring new ideas, resources, approaches and continued advocacy back to our work on behalf of BEES members.



President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER



Recent concerns about sick leave balances, payroll deductions, and accurate payments have highlighted the need for clearer, more consistent practices and timely corrections. We have been working diligently with HR to correct any issues as they arise. Please review your pay statements and time cards regularly. If something appears incorrect, save the relevant approval, time entry, or correspondence and contact your building representative or me. Documentation helps us address individual errors and identify patterns requiring broader attention.

Compensation and retention also remain central to our local discussions. Our focus is on aide and teaching assistant incentives that recognizing experience, strengthen educational incentives, and support professional growth. These discussions remain ongoing, and we will share updates as the work progresses.

We are currently working under two settled contracts, both of which provide excellent benefits, supportive language, and valuable protections for our members. However, a settled contract does not mean I stop advocating for what is best for our BEES members. Our members' needs continue to evolve, and opportunities to improve working conditions and compensation deserve attention throughout the life of an agreement.

Through continued advocacy, we have successfully secured multiple mid-contract Memoranda of Agreement, or MOAs, benefiting different constituent groups within our unit. These include agreements addressing longevity language, recognition of school psychologists' post-Master's credits and summer pay for guidance counselors.
These successes reflect the importance of listening to members, identifying concerns, and continuing conversations with the agency. I remain committed to pursuing improvements whenever there is an opportunity to better support the members we represent.

Workplace safety remains a priority. Our transition from BEES Buddies to Workplace Violence Prevention liaisons is intended to strengthen communication about workplace incidents and help identify concerns that need attention. Please follow agency reporting procedures and keep your building union representatives informed as we move through the transition and train our new liaisons for the role . Accurate reporting, practical training, and meaningful follow-through are essential to improving safety conditions for staff and students.

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Please take a few minutes to review our BEES Building Representative Directory for the 2026–2028 term and get familiar with the representatives serving your building or program. Your representatives are an important connection between you and union leadership. They help communicate updates, bring forward concerns, and connect members with support. Introduce yourself, ask questions, and keep them informed.



A special welcome to our new representatives, and thank you to our returning representatives and Executive Board members. Your willingness to support colleagues/members strengthens our entire union.

NYSUT and AFT: Our Local Priorities Have a Larger Voice

NYSUT's Fix Tier 6 campaign continues to advocate for retirement fairness, including greater parity with Tier 4 in contributions and retirement age. BEES members have helped bring attention to this issue through our own organizing, and our continued involvement matters.
Protecting public education also remains an urgent statewide issue. In its October 9 statement, NYSUT opposed Governor Hochul's decision to participate in the federal private-school voucher program and pledged to continue its advocacy against the program.
At the national level, AFT's September survey of more than 2,000 K–12 members found that nearly two-thirds reported high weekly stress, while 31 percent said they were likely to leave teaching within the next year. Those findings reinforce why compensation, working conditions, and support for staff must remain central to our advocacy.

Watch for information about our BEES VOTE-COPE drive site visits, including BEES merchandise thank you gifts! VOTE-COPE is NYSUT's voluntary, nonpartisan political action fund supporting endorsed candidates and committees that advocate for public education and working people. The work to Fix Tier 6 is being funded by our VOTE-COPE dollars!

Through the Helping Hive, member events, and everyday acts of support, our members continue to demonstrate the strength of our union community. Please welcome new colleagues, stay connected, and share your ideas. Thank you for your trust and for the work you do every day. My commitment to advocating for you continues throughout the year—and throughout the life of every contract.

In solidarity and strength,

Asha

President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

Get our new BEES App!



Stay connected for all the latest events and information!

Dues-paying
BEES members only.

BEES
BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk
Union Strong

MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



Welcome back to all our members.
Whether this is your first year with The BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk (The BEES) or you have been part of our union for many years, thank you for choosing to join and be part of a community of over 700,000 dedicated NYSUT union members working together for shared goals and mutual support.
We're already well into our second month of school, and I hope your year has started smoothly. By now, you're likely settling in with your new students, colleagues, and perhaps a new building.

To our academic teachers, whether you teach English, math, science, social studies, or another core subject, you help students do far more than learn course content. When students struggle, your patience and guidance can help them find the confidence to keep trying. When they succeed, your recognition helps them understand what they are capable of achieving. These experiences build academic skills and self-belief that students carry with them well beyond high school.
To our Career and Technical Education teachers, your dedication to teaching trade skills equips our students with practical, marketable abilities that open real doors to meaningful careers and financial independence. You're not just imparting technical knowledge; you're building confidence, work ethic, and professional habits that will serve your students throughout their lives. In a landscape where skilled trades are in high demand, you're providing pathways that matter.
Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize and thank our dedicated support staff for the essential role you play in our schools and in the lives of our students. From the first greeting in the morning to the last task completed at the end of the day, your work helps create safe, welcoming, and successful learning environments. Our schools could not function without the commitment of our teaching assistants and teacher aides. You are often the first person a student sees when they arrive, the person who notices when a student needs extra support, and the person who keeps everything running behind the scenes. Your contributions matter, and your work deserves to be valued and respected.

Executive Vice President - Alan Rios

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As the year gets underway, I encourage you to:

- *Get to know your union building representative. Reach out to them with any questions or concerns you may have, especially if it has to do with your contract. If your Building Rep. doesn't have an immediate answer to a question they will either find out the answer or they will direct you to the right person who can help.*
- *Make sure you attend union meetings which will be held at your building.*
- *Check out your building's union bulletin board for union events, information or notices.*
- *Always feel free to share your ideas, concerns or successes with your union leadership.*
- *Take a moment to sign in to The NYSUT (New York State United Teachers) website at www.nysut.org.*
- *You will be able to print out your NYSUT membership card or download a digital card.*
- *You will find valuable information on this page to unlock links and codes for discounts and savings with online shopping, travel, entertainment, home supplies and personal services just for being a NYSUT member.*



Your membership matters—it connects you to a network of professionals advocating for your rights, supporting your career, and strengthening your voice in the workplace.
I am honored to serve as your Executive Vice President, and I look forward to connecting with you and supporting you throughout the year. Together with our Executive Board, we are committed to advocating for what matters most to every member of The BEES. Your success and wellbeing are at the heart of everything we do, and we are here for you every step of the way.
As we move forward, I wish you a successful and productive year filled with meaningful moments in the classroom for both you and your students. Together, as union members, we're stronger, and your participation makes a real difference in building the workplace and profession we all deserve.
Public education thrives because of dedicated professionals like you. Thank you for everything you do to educate and inspire.

All the best,
Al Rios

Executive Vice President - Alan Rios

How to maximize your NYSUT membership

Your NYSUT membership offers special advantages unavailable to the general public. Make sure you're utilizing all the savings opportunities below provided by NYSUT Member Benefits.

Member-Only Pricing: Protect your loved ones with various life insurances. Plan for the future with quality long-term care insurance plans. Select from multiple highly rated auto and home insurance carriers. Receive reimbursement for eligible pet care through Nationwide.

Unbiased Advice: Ensure your financial and legal affairs are in order. Receive expert guidance on personal legal matters with unlimited advice from attorneys through our legal service plan. Obtain unbiased, objective phone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor with our financial counseling program.

Travel Savings: Bundle and save on flights, cruises, vehicle rentals, and over 850,000 hotels and resorts for the optimal travel experience with MB Discounts & Deals. Enjoy reduced pricing on over 80 explorations across 100 countries with Grand Circle Travel & Overseas Adventure Travel, including new "Immersions" options for more active travelers.

Free Benefits: Check out our free benefits! All in-service and retiree members receive unlimited access to the popular Calm app and can add up to five dependents (age 16 or older). Whether you have a specific matter or simply need an empathetic voice, the Peer Support Line can help. Other benefits include: $5,000 accidental death & dismemberment insurance, travel assistance services, financial learning center, and more.



Feel confident knowing you have a trusted advocate on your side if you ever need us.

Find out all that's available from Member Benefits. Scan the QR code, visit **memberbenefits.nysut.org**, or call **800-626-8101**.

MEMBER BENEFITS
nysut
Working to Benefit You

HAPPY FALL



Happy Fall, BEES Membership! I hope you all have settled in and having an excellent start to the school year. Summer feels like a distant memory as we get ready for Halloween, Thanksgiving and election season.

This past September, we had our BEES Opening Day General Membership meeting for the BEES. It was another successful kick off to the school year, followed by the VOTECOPE Raffle. Through the VOTECOPE raffle, 48 VOTECOPE members were able to win a gift certificate. Congratulations to all our winners!

We are having a VOTECOPE Drive this fall where we will be heading over to the buildings to sign up new members and to generate more VOTECOPE dollars to be used towards initiatives to campaigns like FIX Tier 6. By making a donation you receive some cool BEES swag. Please ask your building rep. if you have any questions. More to follow…..

Election Day is November 3 rd and it's quickly approaching. Please head out to the polls and vote for pro-education and pro-labor candidates. NYSUT is working hard to educate the membership statewide on the endorsement of candidates that are looking to fortify our member benefits, to preserve collective bargaining and to secure our pensions. Also, Fixing Tier 6 so they can receive the same benefits as our Tier 4 members. There is a ton of work to be done in order to fix those inequities. All the NYSUT endorsed candidate lists are located on the NYSUT webpage. Please head out to vote!!

Political Action Committee (PAC) opportunities are available for members who would like to get involved at the Suffolk Regional Office (Hauppauge). There are Phone Banks and Labor Walks if any of our BEES members would like to get involved heading into election season. The phone banks are located in BBP/Sayville, Sachem and the SRO in Hauppauge.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy school year!

First Vice President - Keith Flynn

PRIDE AND PURPOSE



As we begin a new school year, I would like to welcome back all of our dedicated paraeducators and wish everyone a positive, successful, and rewarding year ahead.
Each of you plays an essential role in the lives of the students we serve, and the work you do every day makes a meaningful difference in our schools. As your Area Vice President, I am proud to represent such a hardworking and committed group of professionals.
A new school year brings fresh starts, new opportunities, and the chance to continue supporting one another as we navigate challenges and celebrate our successes together.

I would also like to extend a special welcome to our new building representatives. We are excited to have you and sincerely appreciate your willingness to step into this important role. Building representatives serve as an essential link between our members and the union, helping to ensure that every member feels supported, informed, and heard. I look forward to working with all of you throughout the year.
I am also excited to share our new Union Strong app! Please download and use the app to stay informed about important announcements, access contract information, and sign up for union membership—all in one convenient place:

Download the Union Strong app

Let's continue to stand together, support one another, and remember that our union is strongest when we work as a team. Thank you for everything you do for our students, your colleagues, and our union.
I look forward to a productive year filled with collaboration, growth, and continued success. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions, concerns, or ideas.

Wishing everyone a wonderful school year. Together, we make a difference!

In solidarity,
Tiffany

Area VP for Paras- Tiffany Robinson

WELCOME BACK!



Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back! I hope you had a restful, relaxing, and enjoyable summer and had the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, recharge, and enjoy some well-deserved time for yourselves.
As we begin a new school year, we return with renewed energy, fresh goals, and a shared commitment to our students and one another. The work we do each day is important, and the dedication, compassion, and professionalism you bring to our school community make a lasting difference.

As your Area Vice President of Special Education, I want to remind you that we are stronger when we stand together. Our collective voice matters, and I remain committed to supporting you, advocating for your rights, and ensuring that your concerns are heard. Please never hesitate to reach out with questions, concerns, or ideas. Open communication and solidarity are essential to maintaining a strong and supportive workplace.

A new school year brings new opportunities, challenges, and accomplishments. Let's begin the year with a positive spirit, mutual respect, and a continued commitment to supporting one another. Together, we can make this a successful and rewarding year for our students, our colleagues, and our entire school community. Wishing everyone a wonderful start to the school year filled with success, good health, and many reasons to BEE proud of the work we do.

All the best,
Alissa

Area VP for Special Ed.- Alissa Sorel

BUILDING CONNECTIONS, SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Welcome back to all our BEES members! I hope everyone is settling into the new school year and looking forward to a positive, productive, and successful year ahead.
I would like to begin by recognizing and thanking Mark Deedy (BTC) and Eric Rickmers (WTC) for their dedication and service as building representatives. Both have decided to step down from their positions, and I want to publicly express how much I have appreciated working alongside them. Throughout their time as representatives, they handled building-level concerns, navigated challenging situations, maintained member confidentiality, and advocated for their colleagues with professionalism and integrity. Their time and commitment have not gone unnoticed, and I sincerely thank them both for all they have done.
We are excited to welcome Chris Silva (WTC) and Adam Koral (BTC) as our newest building representatives! Both have jumped into their new roles with enthusiasm and a genuine commitment to learning the contract, understanding their responsibilities, and becoming trusted advocates for their members. I look forward to working with them and watching them grow in these positions.

I would also like to remind everyone of our other building representatives:
MTC: Jane Doherty – Blue Contract
ICC: Rich Urhan
Jane and Rich are always on the job and are willing to explore different ways to ensure your rights are protected attend meetings with you if needed and keep you safe in your position .
These are your go-to people!
Your building representatives are your first line of support when questions, concerns, or contractual issues arise. They are knowledgeable, approachable, and willing to work with members and administration to help resolve concerns before they become bigger problems.
One thing I cannot emphasize enough: If we don't know there's a problem, we can't help solve it! Sometimes the solution is simple. Other times, it takes a little research, a conversation with administration, or a closer look at the contract. Either way, you do not have to navigate these situations alone.
If you have ever wondered exactly what a building representative does, or found yourself asking, "Wait a minute… is that contractual?" — you are not alone! Bring those questions to your next building union meeting. The more informed we are as members, the stronger we are as a union.

Area VP for CTE/SCE.- Deirdre Pettit

BUILDING CONNECTIONS, SUPPORTING ONE ANOTHER, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Take Advantage of Your Union Benefits!
I also want to encourage everyone to take a few minutes to explore the resources available to you as a union member.
First, download our new union app! It is a convenient way to stay connected and informed. You can access your contract, find information about upcoming events, and keep important union resources right at your fingertips.
Another valuable resource I want to highlight is our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). Many members don't realize that this resource isn't just for them — it can also provide assistance to family members. If you or someone in your family is going through a difficult time, experiencing stress, or needs counseling or additional support, EAP can help connect you with appropriate resources and providers. Sometimes just knowing where to turn is half the battle.



And while we're talking about benefits, have you visited the NYSUT website lately?
If not, take a few minutes to explore the member benefits section. You may be surprised by how many opportunities there are to save money! From insurance discounts and car rentals to legal services (wills) and many other valuable programs, there are benefits available that many of us never take advantage of.

As we move through the school year, remember that your building representatives are there to support you. Start with them when you have questions or concerns. If additional assistance is needed, they will reach out to me, and together we will work toward a solution.
Our goal is not to create conflict but to encourage communication, ensure that our contracts are respected, protect our members, and help create a positive working environment for everyone.
And Finally… Remember why we do what we do.
As another school year gets underway, I want to remind each of you just how important your work truly is. Every day, you walk into your classrooms, shops, labs, and programs carrying something your students hope to have one day — your knowledge, your experience, and your expertise.
They look to you not only to teach them a skill but also to show them what it means to be a professional.
You are laying the foundation for your students and they will look back and remember that it all started at Eastern Suffolk BOCES with an educator who believed in them, encouraged them, and took the time to show them what was possible.
Never underestimate the difference you make simply by showing up and doing what you do best.
I wish all of you a wonderful school year filled with success, laughter, patience and those rewarding moments that remind us why we chose this profession.
Enjoy your students, take pride in the amazing work you do, and remember that your union is here for you.
Please don't hesitate to reach out to your building representatives or to me whenever you need assistance.
Here's to a great year ahead — and to continuing to make a difference, together!

In solidarity,
Deirdre

Area VP for CTE/SCE.- Deirdre Pettit

HAVE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!



Hello BEES members and welcome back to a new school year! I hope it is a successful one for all! I would like to congratulate all of our new itinerants that were hired over the summer. I hope the transition to your assignment is as smooth as possible, and please utilize our assistance if you should need any help with learning all about your union contract and benefits. I thank our members, once again, for allowing me to serve as your Area VP for Itinerants. Last year, I was able to visit some programs to meet many of you and I look forward to meeting and speaking with more of you as the year progresses. Please reach out to me at any time with any questions or concerns. My contact information is listed below. As always, over the summer, there were some transitions and re-assignments for itinerant staff. While some are embraced, other moves can be stressful and overwhelming. We are here for you with any union questions you may have to help acclimate to your new environment. Please stay updated with your building rep(s) or your district-based rep if you are assigned outside of a BOCES program. This will keep you informed of the latest changes and information shared by the executive board.

Please complete the second update of the Mandated Reporter training by November 17, 2026. Be sure to check that it gets listed on your TEACH account. Also, be sure to monitor your TEACH account registration and renew if expired. This needs to be updated every five years.
If you hold a professional license and you have renewed it, please send to Jean Christensen. These documents need to be received by April 1 st of the school year in order to receive your stipend.
Some itinerants have begun to receive notification for the Medicaid revalidation process. If you are an approved Medicaid provider, you are required to revalidate every five years. The revalidation process was suspended during COVID 19 and has now been re-started. Look out for an email or letter in the mail for notification as well as future correspondence as to the exact steps of this process when we receive more information on how to complete this. Please keep current with your google schedules and make sure they are completed daily as they can be checked periodically.

VP for Itinerants/SAS- Donna Morey

HAVE A SUCCESSFUL YEAR!



BEES has recently negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the agency that recognizes post Master's graduate credits for school psychologists, which will help some psychologists with salary advancement. School psychologists should check to make sure that your transcripts are on file with HR and that you are placed in the appropriate credit column. Please reach out to us if needed. We are here to answer any questions!
For those itinerants and SAS counselors working in district-based programs, please be sure to make sure to follow your contractual language regarding your work day hours. Our language is specific.

Should you have any questions, you can call or email me.

I hope to see all of you at our first Itinerant Union meeting on October 28, 2026, 3:30 pm at the Union Office (1150 Portion Rd). This is where you can receive updated union information directly from me and take the opportunity to discuss any questions or concerns that you may have.

Wishing you all a fabulous school year!

VP for Itinerants/SAS- Donna Morey

BUDGETING THE BEES

Happy Fall everyone! As we all settle into the new school year I hope everyone is finding opportunities to take care of themselves and to have some fun. Below you will see the current 2026-2027 dues schedule. There are some adjustments to the dues schedule in the NYSUT, AFT, and local dues categories. For any payroll deduction questions, please reference your dues schedule. As a reminder, the dues deductions are withdrawn starting with the third pay period. The deductions will continue for 18 consecutive pay periods. A copy of the dues schedule is also available on the BEESBEACON.org webpage.



NYSUT/AFT/LOCAL Dues Schedule for 2026-2027 Membership Year

NYSUT (Codes)	Membership Category By Salary Range	NYSUT Annual Per Capital	AFT Annual Per Capital	LOCAL DUES	TOTAL NYSUT/AFT/ LOCAL DUES	AMOUNT Deducted per Pay Period (18 Pay Periods)	INCREASE Per Pay Period
(1) Full	*$38,000 and higher*	$410.00	$248.16	$370.84	$1,029.00	$57.17	$0.67
(7) ¾	*$28,750 to 37,999*	$307.50	$124.08	$228.92	$660.50	$36.70	$0.47
(2) ½	*$19,000 to $28,499*	$205.00	$124.08	$176.72	$505.80	$28.10	$0.36
(5) ¼	*$9,500 to $18,999*	$102.50	$62.04	$124.16	$288.70	$16.04	$0.21
(8) 1/8	*Under $9,500*	$51.25	$31.02	$42.43	$124.70	$6.93	$0.13
(6)	*Unpaid leave Laid-off*	$10.00	$12.00		$22.00	$1.22	-0-
(9) **	*Per-Diem Substitute*	---	---	---	---	$.70/day	-0-
(3)	*Retirees (pre-funded)*	---	---	$35.00	---	---	-0-
*	*Full/Split*	$410.00	$124.08	$280.60	$814.68	$45.26	$0.58

Note:* A special split NYSUT/AFT category within Code 1 (Full Dues) exists only if members are earning more than $38,000 but less than the basic teacher's salary.
**Per- Diem Substitutes dues are $.70 per day for NYSUT/AFT up to a maximum of ¼ dues. Refer to Membership Reporting & Dues Transmittal Handbook for additional information.

Full Dues Paying Member	2025-2026	2026-2027	Increase
NYSUT	$402.00	$410.00	$8.00
AFT	$245.16	$ 248.16	$3.00
LOCAL	$369.84	$370.84	$1.00
TOTAL	**$1,017.00**	**$1,029.00**	**$12.00**

Proposed income for the 2026-2027 budget is based on an estimated (full)772, (Split)45, (3/4) 577, (1/2)303, (1/8) 1 dues contributions and interest from savings. Active Members + Leave = 1,749 Total Members.
*Submitted by the **BEES Budget Committee**:*
Asha Mazza Shaw-President, Rachael Klahn-Treasurer, Adrian Grube - Chairperson, Dana Sayers, David Rimland & Erin Murphy-Active Members

Dues deductions begin the 3rd pay period for (18) consecutive pay periods.

VOTE/COPE
So much to gain, so little to give!
If you are not a vote cope member, please fill out a card this morning for automatic payroll deduction one time a year of $12.00(aide) $25.00(TA) $50.00(Teacher) donation.

Reminder *All up & coming retirees must join the B.E.E.S retiree Chapter in order to retain any insurance you may have through NYSUT.*

I hope everyone has an enjoyable holiday season and a great school year!

Sincerely,

Rachael

Treasurer- Rachael Klahn

WELCOME BACK, UNION FAMILY!



Welcome back to another school year! I hope everyone had a relaxing, enjoyable summer and is feeling refreshed and ready for the year ahead.
As we jump back into the swing of things, keep an eye out for our upcoming VOTE-COPE and membership drives. These are great opportunities to get involved, strengthen our union, and continue building a strong voice for our members.
If you're new to the union, welcome! We're glad you're here! Be sure to check out the NSYUT and AFT websites, where you'll find a wealth of resources, from information on enrolling in classes and professional development opportunities to one of everyone's favorite perks: member discounts! Click the headings below to check them out! If you need your NYSUT member number, you can email me at agrubebeeunion@gmail.com and I'll be happy to send it to you!

I look forward to seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones throughout the school year. Let's make it a great year by staying connected, getting involved, and supporting one another. And, of course, save the date for our Friendsgiving in November! It's a great opportunity to come together, catch up, and celebrate the community that makes our union special. Here's to a fantastic school year!

sincerely,
Adrian

NYSUT Member Benefits

AFT Member Benefits

Membership Coordinator- Adrian Grube

LET'S BEE SOCIAL!



🐝 Save the Dates: Upcoming BEES Events!

Come relax, reconnect with colleagues, and make some new friends at our upcoming BEES events!

BEES Friendsgiving & Cornhole Tournament
November 12, 2026
The Back Yard, 1241 Middle Country Road, Middle Island
Join us for food, fun, raffles, and a little friendly competition!
Admission for BEES members is one new, unwrapped toy for a child ages 0–16, supporting the Helping Hive toy drive.
Food and one drink ticket are included. Non-BEES guests are welcome with a $10 guest ticket.
Want to play in the cornhole tournament? Bring a partner and register for $5 per person. Prizes will be awarded to the winners!
Please see the flyer below to RSVP and purchase tournament and guest tickets.

End-of-Year Celebration

May 14, 2027 | 4:30–7:00 p.m.
Stereo Garden
Let's celebrate another school year together with good food, music, and friends old and new! More details will be shared as the date approaches.

BEES at the Long Island Ducks

June 2027 | Date and details to follow
Join your fellow BEES members for a day at the ballpark! Watch for more information about the game, tickets, and how to reserve your spot.
We hope to see you there! 🐝

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.

In Solidarity,

Danielle

Social Chairperson- Danielle Ibba

BEES Friendsgiving

BEES
BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk
Union Strong

11/12/26

4:00 PM–7:00 PM

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT



- Corn Hole Tournament starts at 4:30 PM
- Tournament entry: $5 per person
- Must bring your own partner
- Non-member guests welcome: $10 per ticket
- Top 3 tournament places receive prizes
- Amazing raffles
- You do not have to play in the tournament to attend
- Food and 1 drink ticket included

- Cost of entry: 1 new, unwrapped gift donation for our BEES Helping Hive
- Gift age range: kids 0-16

Click to RSVP
Everyone must RSVP to attend

Click to Purchase Tickets
Corn Hole and Non-Member Tickets

DEDICATION AND DETERMINATION



Welcome to our "New" and returning members. I hope your school year is off to a great start!
I am so grateful to continue to serve the members of the BEES Union as the Grievance Officer. I work alongside a very dedicated group of professionals who work tirelessly for our members.

Last year, a grievance was filed on behalf of our members. After a lengthy process, the BEES Union was successful and our members got what they deserved. Congratulations to the members who were successfully represented in that process, and a huge thank you to Asha for your leadership in handling this matter!

I encourage you to take some time to become familiar with your contract and stay informed of your contractual benefits. If you feel there has been a breach in contract language, please bring your concerns forward immediately. I can be reached at danasaybees@gmail.com if you need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Wishing you all a successful year!

Sincerely,
Dana

Grievance Officer- Dana Sayers

UNIONS SET THE STANDARDS!



To my fellow Union Brothers, Sisters,

As your Executive Board Recoding Secretary, I want to start by thanking each and every one of you for your continued dedication, resilience, and solidarity. Over the past School year we have shown that when we stand united, we have the power to protect our rights, improve our working conditions, and secure the fair contracts we deserve.

Remember, a union is only as strong as its membership. Let's continue to look out for one another, support our fellow members and remain united in the continued efforts to make Eastern Suffolk BOCES the place everyone wants to be.

Fraternally yours,
Marianne Zioba Longabardi

Recording Secretary- Marianne Zioba Longabardi

RADIANT RETIREES!

Hi BEES Retirees



Let me extend a special welcome to our BEES Retiree Chapter to our brand new retirees! By now you are getting used to the reality of retirement, and just imagine how lucky you will feel when it's cold and icy, and you don't need to worry if you will get that very early morning snow day alert. As new retirees, your first year of retiree chapter membership is free- you won't be asked for dues until September 2027. Please make sure I have your current personal email so you get the info of our Zoom meetings, union events, workshops, conferences, and ES BOCES issues.

PO BOX 798 in Wading River has been overflowing with envelopes with your $35 chapter dues checks since August. We are so fortunate to have such connected and committed retirees. We had about 40 BEES, along with Asha our President, attend NYSUT Retiree Council 22's annual Welcome New Retirees complimentary brunch- in fact we were the largest contingent of all the retirees from eastern Suffolk districts. At the brunch, Ron Gross, the Vice President of NYSUT statewide spoke about the collective power of union retirees lobbying not only protect our own benefits, but also to fight along side of our still working colleagues for improvements to Tiers 5 and 6. Indeed NYSUT Retirees who make up about a third of our huge union, show up in large numbers to lobby our legislature for pro-public education budgets, lobby to maintain our Medicare/IRMAA reimbursements, and helped fill a 15,000 seat arena in Albany at a rally to FIX Tier SIX. We show up for school budget votes, we show up to phone bank for endorsed pro-union candidates, we will vote in November. We are Union For Life!

Want to stay connected to upcoming BEES Retiree events and activities? Download our new BEES mobile app and choose "retirees" as your group when signing up. Once you sign up you will be notified of all BEES events! Don't miss out! Click here to download the BEES Union Strong mobile app

Stay well, and stay connected!

Terry

Retiree Chapter Chairperson- Terry Kalb

Spotlight on our BEES Members

This spotlight article shines on BEES member and BEES building representative for Premm Learning Center, Erin Wilkens and her family.

BEES Giving Back: The Wilkens Family

When Erin was a new teacher with the agency, a coworker at PLC introduced her to A Walk On Water (AWOW). Always looking for ways to give back to others and her community, Erin was quickly drawn to the organization's mission.

AWOW provides surf therapy experiences for children with unique needs and their families. Since its launch in 2012, the organization has served thousands of children and family members, creating positive and empowering experiences that connect the whole family with the ocean and the natural world.

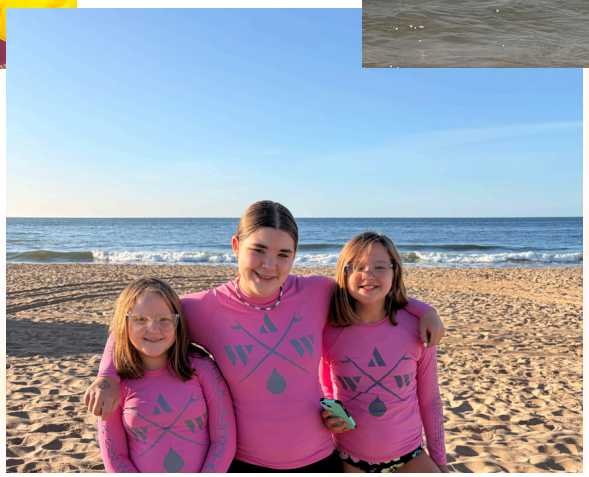
After volunteering on her own for two years, Erin invited her husband, Chris, and their three daughters—Lexi, Skye, and Bree to join her. For the past two summers, the entire Wilkens family has volunteered together, making giving back a family experience!

Interested in getting involved? Visit the A Walk On Water Surf Therapy events page to learn more about volunteer opportunities.

Way to go, Wilkens family! 🐝







The BEES Beacon

The BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk Union Publication

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