

OATA Newsletter Mar./Apr. 2022

Email us at Oakfieldalabamata@gmail.com

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Wendy Bergman
President
NYSUT RA Delegate



Andrea Karas
Vice President
VOTE COPE Rep.



Heather Shadle
Secretary



Amy Sparrow Percy
Treasurer

We know many of our members have been feeling isolated due to the restrictions Covid has put on our daily life activities. Now, more than ever, it is vital that we stay united as a membership. Get involved! Attend meetings, communicate with Union leaders, speak up about concerns, and remember the positive accomplishments achieved by OATA. Together we are united and can accomplish great things.

UNITY – a whole or totality as combining all its parts into one for a common purpose.

As previously mentioned in the Jan/Feb newsletter, Building Reps in the the Elem. and MH buildings are meeting with principals on a monthly basis. Our goal is to keep the lines of communication open and to maintain the safety and wellness of our members. If you have a contractual or building condition concern that needs to be addressed, seek out one of your Building Reps! It may be something that can be addressed during the monthly meeting directly with the building principal.



Robin Bonanno

Elementary Building Rep.



Corinne Coffa

Elementary Building Rep.
Teachers' Center Rep.



Yale Leupold

Middle High Building Rep.



Trena White

Middle High Building Rep.



Joe Jankowski

Retirement Rep.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has several on-demand webcasts available that count toward PD time. They are all free as part of your membership with AFT and NEA. You can register for as many as you would like and since they are all on-demand you can watch them at a time that best suits your schedule. Click on the link to see all 48 webcasts that are being offered!

[AFT Virtual Conference](#)

★★ Do you have news/information that you would like to share with the entire membership? Contact Andrea Karas akaras@oahornets.org for newsletter submissions! ★★

Anyone: what's it like working in education right now?

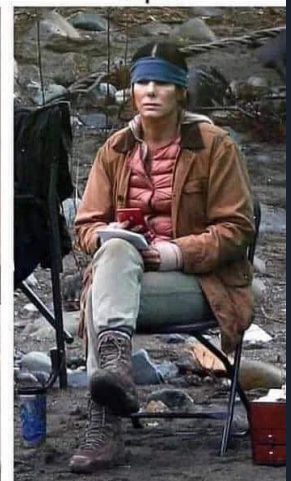
Everyone working in education right now:



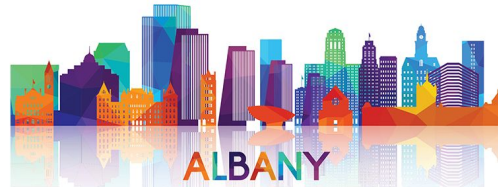
Teachers in
September



Teachers in
April



50th Anniversary
REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY 2022



On March 31 through April 2, I spent time in Albany, NY at the NYSUT Representative Assembly. Thursday started with the President's Council. We got to see the premiere video celebrating NYSUT's 50th anniversary. It was a great movie talking about the history of the union, how it got started, and many of the things that we have fought for over the years. I hope that they make it public shortly so that I can share it with you.

On Friday morning we met with Commissioner Rosa and then had a roundtable discussion with the NYSUT officers. Major topics discussed were the problems with the state tests, inequities with COVID vaccine/testing mandates, Critical Race Theory, and receivership.

Friday afternoon then switched from the President's Council to the Representative Assembly. This year marked the 50th anniversary of NYSUT as it's currently aligned. Prior to that, there were two separate teacher unions in the state (one NEA and one AFT/AFL/CIO). Over the two days there were many speakers beginning with Governor Kathy Hochul taking a break from budget negotiations to address us in person. Other speakers included NEA President Becky Pringle, AFT President Randi Weingarten, NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, NY AG Letitia James, NYS AFL-CIO President Mario Ciento, Congressman Paul Tonko, Congressman Antonio Delgado, as well as all four NYSUT officers.

A few of the highlights that were discussed was the removal of edTPA from the state teaching requirements as well as discussion about fixing Tier 5 and Tier 6 to make it more equitable with Tier 4. I will be spending more time talking about what we can do to help promote the changes in Tier 5 and 6 when we return in the fall.

In convention action Friday and Saturday, RA delegates considered 29 resolutions and approved a couple special orders of business (Ukraine Support and Addressing School/Community Violence). In all, 17 resolutions were approved, seven were defeated, four were referred to the Board and one was ruled out of order.

Resolutions included:

- Repeal receivership and punitive consequences for testing
- Support community schools programs
- Strengthen/diversify educator pipeline
- Counseling and mental health
- Resources for ELL, SPED, and nurses
- Address the digital divide
- Implement shorter, developmentally appropriate 3-8 assessments

For NYSUT's full write up, check out <https://www.nysut.org/news/2022/april/ra-2022-resolutions>.



Explore all your union membership has to offer!

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

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



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

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

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

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



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

