

OATA Newsletter



Your Team:

Wendy Bergman
President

Lisa Cudney
Vice President

Cindy Kowalik
Secretary

Amy Sparrow Percy
Treasurer

Yale Leupold
MHS Building Rep

Heather Shadle
MHS Building Rep

Adam Reeb
Elementary Building Rep

Andrea Grazioplene
Elementary Building Rep

Denise Glidden
Retirement Rep

Corinne Coffta
Teachers' Center Rep

March/April 2016

Updates and Reminders:

- **Negotiations:** Get your questions and/or concerns to a negotiating team member.
- Check out our **OATA website** regularly for updates and upcoming events at <http://oakfieldalabamata.weebly.com/>
- **Email** us at: oakfieldalabamata@gmail.com
- Look for **retirement information** on Denise Glidden's [website](#)
- Remember to discuss Domain 4 at your post observation conference. It's **YOUR** responsibility.

CORPORATE CHALLENGE

If you haven't signed up for the Corporate Challenge yet, please do so as soon as possible. If we have enough participants, we can win \$1500 to use for our OATA scholarships. That means we can save money in the OATA treasury! Help support the OATA scholarship fund by signing up for the Corporate Challenge today!

Mark Your Calendars

April 29 - Bald for Bucks

May 17 - School budget votes - Be sure to vote in your home district!

May 19 - End of the Year Banquet - This year we are celebrating the retirement of Fran Thomas, Ken Moliterno and Lisa Cudney

May 23 - OATA meeting - We will be taking nominations for officers for the 2016-2017 school year at this meeting.

June 23 - Corporate Challenge

NYSUT RA

The annual NYSUT Representative Assembly was held in Rochester this year – good news for our financials as I did not have to spend money on a hotel room. The time was a mixture of a Presidents’ Council for all the presidents throughout the state as well as our annual assembly where we pass important resolutions, make amendments to our By-Laws and Constitution and vote on offices held by the leaders in NYSUT.

Many good discussions were had throughout the three days at the convention center. While at the presidents’ lunch we heard the current NYSUT leaders discuss the challenges that the union had faced and overcome in the past year as well as having an opportunity for a question and answer period. Then at the seminars, we received an update on APPR, the state budget, and Freidrich’s. Although the Supreme Court had the tie vote, the battle is not over as there are many other similar cases coming through the courts in the future months.

During the RA itself, not only did we vote on resolutions, we had many guest speakers. We heard from Randi Weingarten (AFT President), Thomas DiNapoli (NYS Comptroller), Eric Schneiderman (NYS Attorney General), Louise Slaughter (Congresswoman), and a special appearance by Hillary Clinton. Hillary’s speech to the general assembly can be seen here: [video](#) We also heard from each of our five NYSUT leaders including our NYSUT President, Karen Magee. You can [watch her speech](#) as well, including a reason why paying dues to be part of the union is important.

Some of the resolutions that are important to K-12 education that were passed include asking NYSUT to work with NYSED to replace the current College and Career Readiness Standards with appropriate standards, having NYSUT continue to work to correct the failing APPR, and having NYSUT work toward fixing the 2% tax cap problem.

Next year’s RA will be back in NYC where every three years we elect our NYSUT leadership. It will be an important year to be involved in the union.



NYSUT Breakdown (every dollar sent to NYSUT becomes):

Decisions that affect our lives are being made daily. NYSUT members and staff are advocating for their colleagues, families, students and for a better New York. More than 90% of revenue goes directly to providing services to members, with the rest going to administrative fees.

For every \$1.00 of dues sent to NYSUT, the breakdown of use is as follows:

* Purple text indicates how the item directly affects OATA members

\$0.58 – Contract bargaining and enforcement, organizing new members, legal representation

* Using our NYSUT Regional Staff (Lou DalPorto and Mike Deely) for support of district specific issues

\$0.10 – Communication, issue advocacy, campaigns, NY Teacher, www.nysut.org

*NYSUT United and other publications, as well as mailings that get our members involved and aware

\$0.10 – Information technology, accounting, facilities, and general overhead

\$0.05 – Lobbying on funding and legislative issues (does not include contributions to VOTE/COPE)

*Fighting for better APPR standards, curriculum standards, and all educational laws that affect us

\$0.05 – Research on financial, policy, and statistical data to complement union initiatives, influence policy and practices

Compiling data for us to use in negotiations as well as other initiatives we would like to start

\$0.05 – Targeted issue support for member groups such as SRP's, retirees, and health care professionals

*Fighting to keep our pensions safe

\$0.05 – Membership participation from annual convention to committee meetings

*Regional Meetings, NYSUT RA, and all the trainings provided to us

\$0.02 – Ties with national affiliates: AFT, NEA, AFL-CIO



The Value of NYSUT Membership

You may not be aware that your NYSUT membership allows you to enjoy the benefits of the more than 40 programs & services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including a variety of quality, competitive insurance plans.

Member Benefits strives to provide the highest-quality programs for NYSUT members and closely scrutinizes all proposals from reputable vendors before any endorsements are given.

While we work continuously to maintain quality benefit programs at competitive prices, you are encouraged to shop and compare before making any purchasing decisions.

MetLife Auto & Home®



Call MetLife Auto & Home to learn about the special savings and discounts you may be eligible for.

1-866-NYSUT-22

If you are looking for potential savings on your auto or homeowners insurance, consider enrolling in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed MetLife Auto & Home Insurance Program.

This program offers special group rates on personal property and liability coverage not available to individual MetLife policyholders. NYSUT members can choose from a variety of coverages that include auto, homeowners, boat, renter's, and much more.

Policyholders can earn extra discounts for good driving, multiple policies and anti-theft devices. MetLife Auto & Home recently raised the multi-policy discount on its homeowners insurance with auto from 7% to 15%. The multi-policy/multi-product discount on auto insurance with home remains at 8%.

Visit the NYSUT Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101** for specific details about this program or other Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services.

MetLife Auto & Home is a NYSUT Member Benefits Trust (Member Benefits)-endorsed program. Member Benefits has an endorsement arrangement of 5.5% of total premiums for this program. All such payments to Member Benefits are used solely to defray the costs of administering its various programs and, where appropriate, to enhance them. Member Benefits acts as your advocate; please contact Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 if you experience a problem with any endorsed program.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.