On March 1, 2017, CRBFA President **Doug Harple**, Vice President **Sherry Karcher-Hewitt**, Service Chapter Vice President **Gina Hanley**, CTE Chapter Vice President **Erica Kane** and Treasurer **Deb Sorvari** joined forces with BOCES Administration at the NYSUT sponsored BOCES Lobby Day at the New York State Capitol.

**March 02, 2017**

**Students' stories show power of BOCES programs**

Author: Sylvia Saunders  
Source: NYSUT Communications

*Caption: Tamira Glover says the educators at Southern Westchester BOCES' Sprain Brook Academy helped to turn her life around. Photo by El-Wise Noisette.*

To Tamira Glover, being in a BOCES program for incarcerated youth literally saved her life.  

“Honestly if it hadn’t been for my BOCES family, it would have gone one of two ways,” Glover told state lawmakers as she passionately made the case for more BOCES funding. “I’d either be doing major time or I’d be dead. I really believe BOCES saved my life.”

Serving time in Westchester County Jail when she was just 17, Glover said the educators at Southern Westchester BOCES’ Sprain Brook Academy pushed her to develop her reading skills, focus on schoolwork and turn her life around.

“They didn’t give up on me,” Glover said, as she lobbied side by side with BOCES counselor Kevin McAllister and science teacher Keith Mattos, both members of Southern Westchester BOCES TA. “To put it real simple, they got me through.”

In fact, when she finished her jail time, Glover convinced the judge to let her stay in the program so she could graduate last August with a Regents high school diploma. Now, she’s working at a local puzzle-making factory and plans to attend college this fall.

“Even though I’ve graduated, they’re still pushing me now,” Glover told lawmakers. “They’re like a family to me.”

Glover was one of many BOCES students who took part in this week’s **BOCES Lobby Day**, poignantly making their case for more state funding so programs can be enhanced and expanded.

Continued on page 3.
## Important Dates for 2016-2017

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<th>Exec Board NYSUT</th>
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### Celebration Bash

**June 1, 2017**
**Mallozzis on Curry Road**

**Form on last page**

May 5—Cinco de Mayo  
May 6—National Nurses Day  
May 12—Military Spouse Appreciation Day  
May 14—Mother’s Day  
May 20—Armed Forces Day  
May 25—National Missing Children’s Day  
May 29—Memorial day  
June 6—D-Day

## Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association Leadership

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<tr>
<td>President</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
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<tr>
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<td>862-5336</td>
<td><a href="mailto:skusalonis@gmail.com">skusalonis@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grievance Chair</td>
<td>Kristen Lashway</td>
<td>421-3446</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:Kris10Lashway@gmail.com">Kris10Lashway@gmail.com</a></td>
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www.crbfa.org
Their stories were as varied as the incredible range of BOCES programs — from intensive special education programs to career and technical offerings in fast-growing fields like health sciences and the trades.

Matt Robertson, who attended a BOCES program for students with autism at Scarsdale High School, proudly told lawmakers how he went on to graduate from SUNY Purchase.

“It was all my incredible BOCES teachers who got me where I am today,” Robertson said. “I’m now a teacher’s aide with BOCES so I can give back and help other kids like me.”

Robertson told Senate Democratic Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins he intends to take classes at CUNY Lehman College and hopes to someday become a teacher himself.

Andy Jordan, co-president of Monroe 1 BOCES United Employees, told lawmakers that staff shortages are taking a toll.

“It’s a crisis,” he told Assemblyman Harry Bronson, D-Rochester. “Our injury rate at BOCES is twice the national average and it’s putting incredible weight on teachers and TA’s. At our last meeting, (it was noted) that a paraprofessional at BOCES can go down the road and make more money working at Burger King — and do it in a safer place.”

Monroe 1 BOCES District Superintendent Dan White agreed about the staffing shortage: “We used to get hundreds of applicants when we had a special education teacher opening ... For a variety of reasons now, we’re not getting anywhere near enough.”

“At the end of the day, the ask is money,” Jordan said.

Aside from increasing K-12 school aid, BOCES advocates urged lawmakers to support a wide assortment of bills that would help BOCES remain economically viable and even expand offerings:

- a bill that would increase the aidable salary for BOCES CTE programs. The current aid formula has not changed since 1990 so the state only provides aid for the first $30,000 of a BOCES instructor’s salary;
- a bill that would allow BOCES to establish reserve funds to cover long-term costs;
- a bill that would provide BOCES building aid for school safety expenses like metal detectors and security devices;
- a bill that would provide preschool special education programs with a desperately needed cost-of-living adjustment; and
- a bill that would exempt BOCES capital projects from the property tax cap.

Currently, if a BOCES wants to replace a roof, it must get permission of all component school districts.

TAKE ACTION: Urge lawmakers to fund BOCES!

“It is success stories like these that really impact legislators,” said NYSUT Executive Vice President Andy Pallotta, as he welcomed about 150 BOCES teachers, administrators and board members who joined forces for BOCES Lobby Day on Wednesday. “What makes our advocacy day so unique is that you’re out their lobbying together as teams, all spreading the word that BOCES are a crucial part of our educational system.”

The BOCES advocates strongly made the case for more K-12 funding so that school districts can afford to send students to BOCES programs. Under the state’s property tax cap, school districts are severely limited in spending, thus cutting back on BOCES enrollment.

“We’re gravely concerned about the property tax cap,” said Southern Westchester BOCES TA’s Marty Sommer. “As it impacts districts, it certainly impacts us.”

Support the Educational Needs of Our Students! Ask Lawmakers to Fund BOCES!

TAKE ACTION

continued from front page
Dear Colleagues,

We’re in the last stretch of the school year and the students are so full of energy. I’ve heard people say that youth (referring to the youthful energy) is wasted on the young. Oh, how much we could get accomplished if we had the energy of the kids. Well maybe so, but we have what we have. We should focus on what we can do and not allow ourselves to be trapped into thinking that whatever we do isn’t good enough. Or, that no matter how much we do, it isn’t enough. Those thoughts can only ultimately lead to frustration and discouragement.

Should we always strive to maintain high standards and improve where we can? Absolutely, but we also need to look at and enjoy what we have accomplished and how well we have done it. This is so very important because we educate young people. We need to not only instill in them a desire to achieve, but also the ability to see and understand their own successes. How can they be happy, well adjusted people if they can only see faults and shortcomings of what they do? How can we as role models help them in this way if we only see faults and shortcomings?

Take a moment to enjoy what you have done and done well. Take time to revel in what your students do. You’ll enjoy it and they will grow from it. The work you do is so important.

Please remember to give to our VOTE COPE campaign. It is now underway and you need to contribute. Even if you can’t contribute much, try to contribute something. This is probably one of the most important contributions you can make which will benefit you. It is through political action that so much affecting our working conditions is accomplished. Five, ten, twenty? If you do payroll deduction and give one dollar per pay, it would be a great. You probably would not miss the dollar or two, but you would be making an important contribution to our political action work. If everyone did just a dollar per pay it would total about $14,000. That’s about 5 times what our members contribute presently. Give whatever amount you can, it’s your job and your future.

In closing I would like to thank all our members that work on Association activities including our officers, rep council members and our many committees. Your efforts have helped many members.

Looking forward, Doug

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News from the President

Ham & Cheese Breakfast Casserole

From: EatingWell Magazine, April/May 2006

This healthy update of a traditionally rich ham-and-cheese breakfast strata is made lighter primarily by losing a few egg yolks and using nonfat milk. Gruyère cheese has a delicious, nutty aroma and flavor, which means that with the relatively small amount in this recipe you still get a big impact. To finish the makeover use nutritious, fiber-rich, whole-grain bread instead of white. The results: plenty of flavor, half the calories and one-third the fat of the original.

Nutrition profile

Ingredients 6 servings for serving adjustment

Serving size has been adjusted! Original recipe yields 6 servings

- 4 large eggs
- 4 large egg whites
- 1 cup nonfat milk
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 5 cups chopped spinach, wilted (see Tip)
- 4 cups whole-grain bread, crusts removed if desired, cut into 1-inch cubes (about ½ pound, 4-6 slices)
- 1 cup diced ham steak, (5 ounces)
- ¼ cup chopped jarred roasted red peppers
- ½ cup shredded Gruyère, or Swiss cheese

Preparation Active 30 minReady In 1 h 45 m

1. Preheat oven to 375°F. Coat a 7-by-11-inch glass baking dish or a 2-quart casserole with cooking spray.
2. Whisk eggs, egg whites and milk in a medium bowl. Add mustard, rosemary and pepper; whisk to combine. Toss spinach, bread, ham and roasted red peppers in a large bowl. Add the egg mixture and toss well to coat. Transfer to the prepared baking dish and push down to compact. Cover with foil.
3. Bake until the custard has set, 40 to 45 minutes. Uncover, sprinkle with cheese and continue baking until the pudding is puffed and golden on top, 15 to 20 minutes more. Transfer to a wire rack and cool for 15 to 20 minutes before serving.

Make Ahead Tip: Prepare casserole through Step 2; refrigerate overnight. Let stand at room temperature while the oven preheats. Bake as directed in Step 3.

Tip: To wilt spinach, rinse thoroughly with cool water. Transfer to a large microwave-safe bowl. Cover with plastic wrap and punch several holes in it. Microwave on High until wilted, 2 to 3 minutes. Squeeze out excess moisture before adding the spinach to the recipe.

Nutrition information

- Serving size: 1 piece; Per serving: 286 calories; 10 g fat (4 g sat); 4 g fiber; 23 g carbohydrates; 23 g protein; 114 mcg folate; 150 mg cholesterol; 5 g sugars; 2 g added sugars; 3,707 IU vitamin A; 18 mg vitamin C; 286 mg calcium; 3 mg iron; 845 mg sodium; 507 mg potassium; Nutrition Bonus: Vitamin A (74%
Dear Constituents:

Spring has finally arrived, but as I write, old man winter does not want to let go just yet. I have my fingers crossed that winter will be over soon and we will begin to feel the warmth of the sun on our faces.

NYSUT held their Health and Safety conference last month at the Saratoga Hilton Hotel. The conference was very successful and many attendees from around the state commented positively on the importance of the conference. Our theme this year was Trauma Informed Care and our guest speaker Dr. Briar-Lawson was very insightful and informative. The lunch address by Dr. Briar-Lawson was a timely and prudent reminder of the daily challenges our profession faces as teachers and support staff reach out to victims of neglect, abuse and hunger. Her profound understanding of the roots of ‘educator burnout' needs wider dissemination. Our Health and Safety committee along with NYSUT Education and Learning Trust are looking into implementing a second phase to the Trauma Informed Care seminar and follow up with a Secondary Trauma workshop. Dr. Briar-Lawson's appreciation for the crucial role of local Union leaders in the work to protect vulnerable children including recent refugees, was a needed reminder of the complexity of our work and the need to not be distracted by a focus on testing and evaluation as we seek to help the individual child and realize the priority of empathy over test results and graduation rates. There is much work to be done to help our students who live under the cloud of trauma as well as the secondary effect trauma has on support staff. Also in attendance were Catherine Jakway and Princetta Jordan.

A friendly reminder the TA ShowCase will be held on May 16th at Central Administration from 3:00-4:30 PM. I will be calling the recommended candidates this week to invite them personally. It is always a lovely venue for Teaching Assistants/Aides to display their talents to their co-workers. This day is very special to me because although I already know how talented and dedicated you all are your administrators and peers get to see it also. Please come out and support your co-workers and friends.

The Special Education Redesign Implementation committee is working hard to make the changes that were recommended by the independent consultants. Work will focus on four essential elements: the intake process, literacy instruction, student behavior and Response to Intervention (RTI), as identified in the Independent In-depth Special Education Report of January 2017. As of this writing the teams have met three times and have addressed the intake process RTI.

In closing, please have a wonderful spring break. Find some special time with your family and friends and remember to take some time for yourself. We will be coming into the home stretch soon and summer will be around the corner. Remember to sign up on-line if you are interested in working summer school. Everything is done on-line now. Take care everyone and please contact me with all concerns.

In Solidarity, Colleen Condolora
Greeting of Spring,

A quote that may have been one of Yogi Berra’s concerns it not being over until a certain famous lady sings. We are guessing that the famous singer was Kate Smith, a radio star of the 20’s, 30’s and 40’s, known especially for her rendition of “God Bless America”. Many senior retirees may remember her from the days when radio was our prime source of entertainment. I am still waiting to hear her sing. Dare we believe that winter is over? Just the week before, folks were merrily beginning their spring yard work, birds were singing until Storm Stella befell most of the Northeast. It will likely be another week before we see bare ground again. With the return of the intense winds and cold, we retreated back into our burrow and used our energy to do paperwork and sort clippings. Here are a few you may find of interest.

It was not good news to read that the future education of New York’s children may be in jeopardy as the teacher shortage in our state, deepens. According to SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher, the teaching opportunities for new teachers is expected to increase dramatically. There is currently a shortage of special education teachers, for those qualified to teach the STEM subjects as well as world language jobs. Fewer students are entering teacher education and it is projected that in the next decade, the state will need 180,000 teachers. (Gazette, 3/21/2017, p. C-2.)

We also found an article that reminded us of childhood days, before electronics, when families spent evenings together doing puzzles, reading, playing games. One that has endured is the game of Monopoly. It was a fun way to learn about finances, counting money, buying property, income from rentals, bankruptcy. Players were always at the mercy of the roll of the dice and “chance” cards that could bring disaster, not unlike the realities of life. It was a lesson for us that our best made plans can suddenly and unexpectedly crash. Hasbro has announced that three of the game markers will be replaced, one with which many of today’s players are unfamiliar. It is the thimble, a game piece for 87 years. It is a cylindrical object used in sewing to prevent a finger prick when pushing a needle through heavy fabric. In the days when clothing and money were scarce, clothing was mended and patched. Zippers were not plentiful, and buttons often came loose. One day in my young life, I witnessed my Papa replacing a button. He told of my grandma, mother of six boys, teaching each of them to sew, allowing her a little more time to care for her family of nine. But old memories aside, in August, Hasbro will announce the new markers. In addition to the thimble, the boot and wheelbarrow have also been booted. Votes from 4.3 million players will decide. Potential replacements are a penguin, T-Rex and rubber duck. They will be gold plated. (Gazette 3/10/2017. A-2).

Summer will eventually arrive and we read of a publication describing 18 local nature preserves in Albany, Schenectady and Montgomery counties. Twenty five outings are described in the Nature Passport booklet. It is free and available at the Mohawk-Hudson Land Conservancy, 425 Kenwood Ave. Delmar, N.Y. To have one mailed to you, send email to: connect@mohawkhudson.org. (Gazette, 3/19/2017).

IN MEMORY

Our condolences to the family of Robert ‘Bob’ Wayne Cole, who passed away on March 21, 2017 at age 91. Bob was predeceased by his wife of 68 years, Ann (Pardi) Cole. He is survived by his son Mark, daughter Debra, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Bob was a graduate of Scotia Glenville H.S., Oneonta State College and was a Signalman in the U.S. Navy. He worked at Rudd Pontiac before becoming a Vocational teacher at Mont Pleasant Middle School, Schenecady City School District and BOCES.

His passion was restoring antique vehicles. Bob loved traveling, golfing and skiing, until his death. He was always there to guide and help, was a devoted friend and an honorable man.

Internment was at the Gerald B.H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery on March 24. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. (Gazette, 3/22/2017).
On March 3-4, 2017, CRBFA Vice President Sherry Karcher-Hewitt and Service Chapter Vice President Gina Hanley attended the two-day "Speak Up, Stand Up, Step Up: A NYSUT Conference on Women’s Priorities", highlighting concerns particular to labor union women.

March 10, 2017

Women's priorities take center stage

Author: Sylvia Saunders
Source: NYSUT Communications

Caption: NYSUT President Karen E. Magee addresses conference attendees. Photo by Marty Kerins, Jr.

• NOTE: Accompanying materials are available online at www.nysut.org/womensprioritiesresources.

Passionate, prepared and pumped up.

That’s how many of the 150 participants at NYSUT’s first-ever conference on women’s priorities left this weekend - revved up and ready to organize and mobilize.

The two-day conference - "Speak Up, Stand Up, Step Up!" - was conceived by NYSUT President Karen E. Magee’s Ad-hoc Women’s Steering Committee, a group that includes NYSUT board members, local leaders, grassroots activists and NYSUT staff. Members of NYSUT’s Civil and Human Rights Committee also took part in the event.

Although in the planning stages for more than a year, the conference’s timing proved to be a perfect extension of the many women’s marches held around the country the day after President Trump’s Jan. 20 inauguration.

As the first woman to be elected NYSUT president, Magee told the audience she was asked early in her presidency what she wanted her legacy to be.

"For me, it was making sure women’s voices are heard — in the union and beyond," Magee said. "Making sure we are helping to set the agenda and moving it forward ... After all, more than 70 percent of our members are women."

The conference addressed a wide range of issues important to all NYSUT members, including domestic violence, retirement security, communications, political engagement and more. Participants also enjoyed a lively open space “un-conference” session near the end of the event, where attendees selected their own topics for small group follow-up discussions that ranged from how to help fearful immigrant students to "The Trump Effect in the Classroom."

Mayor Stephanie Miner: Finding Solace in Solidarity

Keynote speaker Stephanie Miner, the mayor of the City of Syracuse, offered an inspirational lunchtime address on the importance of keeping up the fight for justice and equality — especially in these troubling times.

Miner credited a long line of public school teachers with giving her a great love of reading and history, noting how the lessons learned from history offer a road map for the continued march toward progress.

“When FDR said ‘the only thing we have to fear is fear itself,’ keep in mind he did that at the heart of the Great Depression when citizens were thinking about whether American democracy would survive,” Miner said.

She urged activists to follow in the footsteps of the persistent women who fought so many years for the right to vote; the courageous marchers in Selma who fought for civil rights; and the brave people who stepped up for World War II to fight Fascism and genocide.

“The time for silence and complacency has ended,” Miner said. “Our voices — your voices today — must be heard so that fear and mischaracterizations are not allowed to stand.”

Miner said she has never seen the kind of “grassroots, genuine action” that continues to rise up and counter the spewing hatred...
that is boiling up across the country and to speak out on behalf of immigrants, refugees, transgenders and other marginalized people.

“There is solace in solidarity for all of us,” Miner said. “There are thousands, if not millions, who feel the way we do.”

When audience members asked the best ways to fight back, Miner urged activists to get involved in their union, volunteer in political campaigns, keep in constant contact with elected leaders and perhaps, even run for office themselves.

“Please come,” said Miner, the first woman elected to lead one of the state’s big five cities. “The water’s warm and we need you!”

Start the Conversation: Moving Beyond Bias

In other conference sessions, White Plains Teachers Association’s Kerry Broderick and Dante Morelli, Faculty Association of Suffolk Community College, challenged participants to recognize their own bias — and overt and covert ways perceptions of women, people of color and member of the LGBTQ community are shaped and presented as fact.

Carol Slotkin, a retiree from the Western Sullivan United Teachers and SRPs, said one key to addressing concerns of bias in the classroom or the community actually starts a little closer to home — maybe even in the faculty room. “It’s no longer OK to sit silently,” said Slotkin, a member of the Women’s Steering Committee. “We have a responsibility to define the dialogue as we go forward.”

RESOURCE

- "Beyond Bias" presentation
- WHY IN 5: Social Justice

Christina Bosco, FASCC member, has found success in her classroom by simply listening and sharing and telling stories. "Stories help students to see and put a face on it."

She shared the experience of a male African-American student who is frequently pulled over and ticketed. A conservative-leaning student was quick to point out the male must have been doing something wrong. The black student then shared why he wears a suit to school every day — to avoid the extra police attention, and tickets. "Hearing stories (from someone they know in class) is helpful in getting people to change their minds," Bosco said.

Nancy Perini of Albany Public Schools TA agreed. "You can't underestimate the power of listening to people. At some point when you're respectfully listening to them they might see another point of view."

Selina Durio, North Babylon Teachers' Organization; Serena Kotch, Cleveland Hill EA; and Wayne White of Bellport Teachers Association, all members of the NYSUT Civil and Human Rights Committee, said active listening is a powerful way to start the conversation. The trio performed a skit and shared tips on how to start the conversation on a host of topics — racial diversity, equality, tolerance, labor rights, and more — in a respectful way. NYSUT "Why in 5" cards are one tool available to members to help get discussions going.

"If you don't start the conversation sometimes that means there will be no conversation," Durio said. "You have to start somewhere even if that means active listening."

Retirement (In)security

Rob Lamoureux, Magee’s assistant, highlighted why it is important to prepare financially for retirement and to preserve the retirement safety net through union activism. His interactive presentation allowed participants to answer a series of retirement-centric questions in real time using their smartphones and a web-based application.

“On average, women are living longer today, so it’s important to plan so you don’t outlive your assets,” said Lamoureux. To illustrate, he cited Ida May Fuller, the first citizen to receive Social Security. At the time of her first check, in 1940, the average life expectancy for women was 65 — Fuller lived to the age of 100. “Today the average life expectancy is 81.”

Overly cautious retirement investing, which can lead to thousands lost over a lifetime, and excessive debt and health care costs are pitfalls to a secure retirement. Allowing a spouse to be the sole financial decision-maker is also a problem.

RESOURCE

- "Retirement (In)security" Presentation
- Constitutional Convention Resources

“Following the death of a spouse, many women don’t know how to deal with retirement finances,” he said.

“The good news is that a lot of this can be mitigated or eliminated by the union,” said Lamoureux, who underscored NYSUT’s fight to
maintain a strong pension system, eliminate the gender wage gap and preserve affordable health care. “The biggest threat to retirement security currently is the proposed New York State constitutional convention, which could jeopardize protections in the state constitution that keep our pension system strong.”

He encouraged members to stay abreast of their retirement savings, learn about the threats a constitutional convention poses and to educate themselves and others about the importance of voting no when the convention question appears on the Nov. 7 state ballot.

When Violence Hits Home

In a powerful presentation about domestic violence, two courageous survivors shared their personal stories about how they escaped abusive relationships and urged participants to spread the word about available support services.

The survivors explained how they were at first embarrassed to tell anyone they needed help, but eventually depended on their friends, family, faith and union colleagues to find the courage to get away.

“I remember how ashamed I was,” said Therese, a NYSUT staff member. She noted that statistics show the average victim returns to her abuser seven times before she leaves for good. “Aside from living in constant fear, I was afraid I’d lose my job. You learn to lie. You say, I fell down the stairs.”

“I was making $5,000 as a teacher’s aide,” said Sandie. “Why did I stay? Where was I going to go?”

Thanks to United Way, and her union friends, Sandie got into a shelter and lived three months there. “Thank God. It’s what I needed,” she said.

“Only about 34 percent of women receive medical care due to the ongoing stigma,” said Jeanette Stapley, a Schroon Lake TA leader who serves on the NYSUT Board of Directors and moderated the panel discussion. “If one-third of women have been abused, that means in this room, there are about 40-50 who have been impacted by domestic violence.”

Both survivors and Tabitha Dunn of Unity House in Troy urged audience members to look for warning signs: unexplained absences or sudden changes in behavior, such as a reluctance to participate in social activities, for example. Dunn explained how advances in technology allow stalkers to track victims, monitor their emails and text messages and know their exact locations using GPS coordinates.

Dunn told of one stalker who was able to access his victim’s bank records and turn on her cellphone’s recorder so he could listen to her counseling sessions.

“We need to spread the word about being safe with technology by not allowing other people access to your phone, by being careful with things like fitness apps and GPS location services,” Dunn said. “They want to control you, isolate you, keep you away from other people.”

RESOURCES

• What is domestic violence? Risk factors, warning signs.
• In immediate danger? Don’t wait.
• Domestic Violence Hotline Services: NYS Listings by County
• Power Control Wheel

When Utica TA’s Cherie Grant asked what activists can do to help members, Dunn suggested putting up informational flyers in bathroom stalls and faculty rooms. “One contact number can literally save a life,” Dunn said. “You may never even know you helped someone.”

“Give them a hug, say if you ever want to talk I’m here,” Therese said. “Offer to go to court with them, cook a meal, or take care of their child so they can go to counseling.”

“Reach out anyway you can, so they don’t feel so alone,” Sandie said. “The big thing is to shine a light on it. Not on that person, but on hope.”

To learn more about local and regional services available, Dunn urged activists to check with county officials or call the New York State Domestic Violence hotline at 1-800-942-6906. For New York City, call 1-800-621-HOPE. Another participant noted the United Way’s 2-1-1 hotline can offer other local resources.

Major Takeaways and Next Steps

Magee concluded the conference by announcing the NYSUT Board of Directors has voted to bring a resolution to the NYSUT RA next month that would make the Ad Hoc Women’s Steering Committee a permanent standing committee of the union — one focused on advancing women’s priorities. “This would help ensure our work carries forward into the future,” Magee said.

Though Magee recently announced she would not be seeking re-election as NYSUT President, she will be working closely with AFT President Randi Weingarten and the New York State AFL-CIO on an exciting new initiative to advance economic opportunities for women.

“I embrace the opportunity to carry forward at the national level the causes near and dear to my heart,” Magee said. “And I look forward to continuing these conversations with all of you.”
On March 7, 2017, CRBFA Vice President Sherry Karcher-Hewitt joined hundreds of teachers in attending the NYSUT sponsored "Committee of 100" lobby day advocating for NYS Public Schools and associated labor concerns.

March 07, 2017

NYSUT activists press for greater state investment – and new revenue to pay for it

Author: Ned Hoskin
Source: NYSUT Communications

Caption:
Photo by El-Wise Noisette.

Standing in the center of the noisy mass of coalition partners and activists overflowing the Million Dollar Staircase in the state Capitol, Andy Pallotta looked up to the ceiling with a smile and said: “It’s great to be here among friends, which doesn’t always happen in this building. ... My wish is that all of us here would be able to pay the millionaire’s tax! It’s on my bucket list!”

The stone walls echoed with cheers.

Pallotta, NYSUT’s executive vice president, and NYSUT local union leaders joined progressive leaders from Stronger Economy for All, Citizen Action, the Fiscal Policy Institute and more to demonstrate two ways state lawmakers and the governor could generate enough additional revenue to meet the state’s needs.

NYSUT is backing legislation in the Assembly to extend AND expand the “millionaire’s tax,” moves that would increase state revenue by $5.6 billion. The union also supports a two-house initiative to close the “carried-interest loophole” that solely benefits hedge-fund managers and private equity partners while costing taxpayers some $3.5 billion a year in tax revenue that could be used to expand programs that support students and middle class families.

1) Close the #carriedinterestloophole. 2) Expand #millionaire’s tax. 3) Fully fund education & we ALL WIN! #AndyPallotta@mkink pic.twitter.com/VD5jy6QQH8

— Peter Kim (@mrpeterkim) March 7, 2017

In this annual ritual known as the union’s Committee of 100 Advocacy Days, NYSUT activists seek more financial support from the state for schools, colleges and hospitals. When lawmakers ask, “Where will we get the money?” these two programs are the answer, Pallotta told the nearly 600 members who gathered Monday night for the annual grassroots lobby day.

Tuesday morning, classroom teachers, college faculty and professionals, and other educators fanned out for meetings with local legislators. They pressed for a $2.1 billion increase in school aid, the same level of funding called for by the Regents; a strong, multi-year investment in SUNY, CUNY and the state’s community colleges; and restoration in state subsidies to SUNY hospitals, among other priorities.

“There’s a choice to be made this year – providing tax breaks to millionaires or funding public education and supporting middle class families,” NYSUT President Karen E. Magee said in a statement.

“Wall Street financiers shouldn’t get preferential treatment on their taxes,” said Pallotta. “Their income should be taxed the same as income earned by retail clerks, nurses and elementary school teachers. For too long, the wealthy elite have exploited the carried interest loophole to avoid paying their fair share in taxes, and that has deprived public schools and colleges of the funding they need. This year, Albany must act to close this loophole and make our tax system fairer and more progressive.”

Show your support for NYSUT activists taking action at the Capitol today by taking action at the MAC!
Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association

Celebration Bash
June 1, 2017

Mallozzi’s—New Location!
1930 Curry Road
Schenectady, NY 12306

5:00 - **Cocktail Hour** with hot and cold hors d’oeuvres
6:00 - **Dinner** Farm and Field Chicken
   **Dessert:** Marble Cake with Cassata Filling

All for: $35.00 per person—**Deadline: May 17th**

Book a table of co-workers and bring your spouse/significant other for a wonderful evening. Entertainment, great food, camaraderie and send off for retirees.

Please make checks payable to:
Capital Region BOCES Faculty Association

**Mail checks and registration forms to:**
Carolyn Pierce, 119 Iovinella Ct., Schenectady, NY 12306

Vegetarian Entrée available. Please advise of any dietary restrictions.
If registering for more than one, please list names of each person having vegetarian dinner.

Seating requests: **Maximum of 12 per table.**

Contact Name:________________________ Phone # ___________________

Are you retiring? Know someone who is retiring?
Contact Carolyn Pierce so we can be sure that everyone eligible is included in the celebration
(618-5148 or carbeattie@aol.com)
April Check list

Don’t mix driving and eating: April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Pull over before eating or drinking messy foods to prevent driver distraction. Especially risky: barbecued foods...fri... cream-filled/jelly doughnuts...tacos.

Get advance-care wishes in order: This year, National Health Care Decisions Day (NHDD) will be a weeklong event from April 16 to April 22. See NHDD.org/public-resources for information on making wishes known through health-care proxies, living wills and other documents.

Consider signing up for organ donation: April is National Donate Life Month. Useful resource: OrganDoner.gov

Stay safe in the yard and garden: Protect yourself with work gloves (leather is best), sunscreen, long sleeves, a wide-brimmed hat and insect repellent containing DEET. Rotate tasks every 15 minutes so that no muscle is overused. Wear earplugs or other hearing protection when operating motorized equipment. Never use electrically powered tools in wet conditions.

Sunshine Chairperson

If you know of someone who could use a little cheering up, our sympathy, or a get well card, please contact: Your Chapter VP until we find a new Sunshine Chairperson. Abby has taken another position in NERIC.

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