

Member Newsletter
Volume VIII, Issue 4
April 2024

Joe DiTucci, President
Rob Allen, 1st Vice President
Jacquelyn Lanpher, 2nd Vice President
Amanda Van Huben, Secretary
Cheri Hall, Treasurer

President's Message

State Budget

After significant lobbying by NYSUT and member support, the 2024-2025 New York State budget will provide significant funding to the [General Support for Public Schools \(GSPS\)](#), including a substantial increase in Foundation Aid. The budget also will reinstate the "Hold Harmless" provision within Foundation Aid, preventing school districts from experiencing cuts in Foundation Aid and allowing them to maintain essential funding levels. You can read more [here](#).

Tier 6 Fix

From NYSUT's website: The enacted budget includes the most significant pension reform in 20 years — reducing the Final Average Salary calculation from five to three years for Tier 6 members. That means an average teacher working in New York will get [bigger pension checks, every month, for life](#). We could not have achieved this without the help of our Fix Tier 6 action team that includes tens of thousands of NYSUT members. It's a giant step forward, but we've still got work to do in this long-term battle until the benefits for our Tier 6 members more closely align with the benefits for our Tier 4 members. Sign up to [join the fight](#) for retirement fairness and dignity.

Locally

Recently Jim Centola, Cosgrove's principal, rolled out a plan for a new schedule for the 2024-2025 school year. This decision was made by five administrators in a room. How could they possibly know all the implications that a schedule change could have on the students and faculty in the building? Immediately, members of the STA leadership team began hearing how this schedule would harm students, increase the workload of many of our members and reduce planning time. The STA filed a grievance stating that the district violated Article 12.2.H. The members of Cosgrove mobilized. Through this mobilization, we were able to come to an agreement with the district. The schedule will not go into place for the 24-25 school year. Instead, a committee will be formed to gather information from a wide variety of stakeholders. The response and unity of the members will be imperative as the district and the STA enter negotiations next year, as our contract expires at the end of the 2025 school year. I would personally like to thank Rob Allen for his leadership throughout this issue.

As I enter the final few months of my career at Spencerport, I have officially entered liminal space. It is certainly a transition between what I have known and what is to come. I am committed to continuing to do my job until June 26, but occasionally, the idea of next year does make me realize that there is a notable change in my life in a few short months. At the High School, we are talking about scheduling for the 24-25 school year. The name "DiTucci" does not show up on the list of teachers for next year. This is just one of many things that have occurred that make my impending retirement real.

Speaking of the transition, I continue to meet and/or speak with Rob daily. The more we interact, the more confident I become in his abilities as the next president of the STA. He will be an effective leader and bring many innovative ideas to the role of STA president.

In Solidarity,

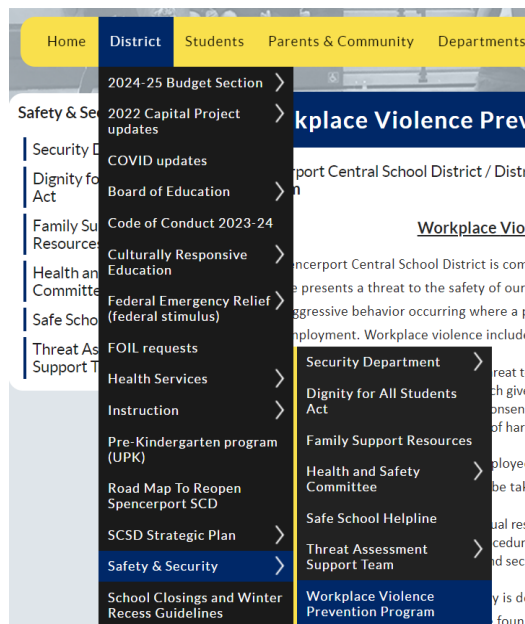
Joe

IMPORTANT: Workplace Violence Prevention Act Update

By Sue Chatterton, PAC Chair

We continue to work with the district on implementing the Workplace Violence Prevention Act. Joe, Rob, and I met with Jonathan Saltzberg and Chris Mears on 4/24/24 to review the work that has been done so far. We looked at the Evaluation of Physical Environment forms that the district has been completing at each building. The purpose of this form is to make sure we work in safe environments and to identify specific locations where there might be safety concerns. If you are aware of any areas of concern in your building that the building committee may have missed, please let us know.

We also reviewed the Workplace Injury Incident Reports from the past year. As part of this new law, we will review Workplace Injury Reports and the newly-created Workplace Violence Incident Reports at least annually with the district to identify patterns of behavior and concerning locations. In order to get consistent information, **it's crucial for everyone to fill out a Workplace Violence Incident Report for all acts of physical violence or aggression towards any teacher.** These forms can be found by going to the Spencerport Home Page, clicking the tab for "District", going to "Safety and Security", and then finally "Workplace Violence Prevention Program" (see image to right). The link to the Workplace Violence Incident Report is at the bottom of the page.



Once you have completed this form, email it to Chris Mears.

Additionally, if you are hurt in any way, you also must fill out a Workplace Injury Incident Report, which can be found in our nurses' offices. It is imperative these forms are completed *each* time there is an incident in order to make our district safer for everyone.

Please reach out to any of us if you have any questions. We will provide more information when we receive it.

Spring STA Events and Outreach

by Rob Allen

Before I get to our updates on recent STA social and fundraising events, I would like to take a moment to thank Joe DiTucci for his years of leadership and dedication to the STA. As long as I have known Joe, he has put our members, and our union, first. Joe is an empathetic and passionate leader, and has taught me most of what I know about what it means to be a union representative. The STA won't be the same without you Joe, but we wish you the best in retirement. You deserve it!

Food Drive: The STA Food Drive for the Spencerport Ecumenical Food Shelf was another success, with one full SUV's worth of food items collected. Thank you to all of the teachers, staff members, transportation employees, district office employees, and board members who donated! It really makes a difference in our community!



Benefits Fair Happy Hour: On Friday, April 26th, the STA hosted a Benefits Fair Happy Hour at the Firemen's Exempts Club. Jackie Davis from NYSUT came out to share information with our members about the various amazing benefits that come from NYSUT membership, including financial counseling, discounted legal services, and insurance deals, among others. Thank you to MJ McQuilkin and Mike Lobene for reserving the space, and a big thank you to Jackie Davis for coming out to speak to our members! If you would like to learn more about these benefits, go to nysut.org and click on "For Members" to find the link to the Member Benefits page.



STA Euchre Tournament: And finally, on Saturday, April 27th, we had our first (of hopefully many) annual STA Euchre Tournament! We had 20 players, and we were able to raise \$198 to go towards purchasing books for the Kiddy Parade at the Spencerport Fireman's Carnival, which will be on Wednesday, June 5th (save the date!). Winners included Tim Chatterton, who took 1st place, David Lanpher, who took 2nd, and our very own Joe DiTucci, who took 3rd. Thank you to the STA, Joe DiTucci, Sue Chatterton, Joe Gallina, Scott Fry, and NYSUT for donating items to the raffle. Thank you also to the Spencerport American Legion for hosting this event, and a HUGE thank you to Bridget Herrmann for all of the time and effort she put into planning this fun tournament! We have been talking about hosting an STA euchre tournament for the better part of a decade, and thanks to Bridget, this dream finally became a reality!



If you have any ideas for future STA events, reach out to me or any of the STA officers or building reps to share them.

STA Leadership Changes

By Amanda Van Huben, Secretary

Due to the retirements of Joe DiTucci and Cheri Hall this June, there will be changes and new faces to the officer positions on Executive Council next year.

Per the By-Laws, Rob Allen, as 1st VP, will become President of the STA. This change created a trickle-down effect of positions that were open to Executive Council members.

The results are as follows: Jacquelyn Lanpher will move from her current position as 2nd VP to 1st VP. Rounding out the officer positions are some new faces- Frank Cafarella will be the Treasurer, and Bridget Herrmann will be the 2nd VP. All the aforementioned positions will be one-year terms fulfilling the tenure of the previous holder.

Executive Council 2023-2024

Officers:

- President Joe DiTucci
- 1st VP Rob Allen
- 2nd VP Jacquelyn Lanpher
- PAC Chair Sue Chatterton
- Secretary Amanda Van Huben
- Treasurer Cheri Hall

PAC Representatives:

- Bernabi Laurie Palmateer
- Canal View Elissa Kingsbury
- Munn Stacy Lonardo
- Taylor Danielle Blossom
- Cosgrove Janeen Henry
- Wilson Dan Pincelli

Delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly:

- Rob Allen
- Joseph DiTucci
- Jacquelyn Lanpher
- Laurie Palmateer

Building Representatives:

Bernabi:

- Ryan Ewanow
- Jennifer Ophardt

Canal View:

- Sue Chatterton
- Elissa Kingsbury

Munn:

- Colleen Lachance
- Stacy Lonardo

Taylor:

- Danielle Blossom
- Rob Pursel

Cosgrove:

- Frank Cafarella
- Janeen Henry
- Suellan Morton
- Emmy Thevanesan

Wilson:

- Bridget Herrmann
- Steve Kelley
- Andy Pacitto
- Dan Pincelli
- Rachel Sherman

Nurses:

- Colleen Goldstone

TAs:

- Tina Pocock

Building Planning Team Representatives:

Bernabi:

- Laurie Palmateer

Canal View:

- Sue Chatterton

Munn:

- Stacy Lonardo

Terry Taylor:

- Danielle Blossom

Cosgrove:

- Emmy Thevanesan

Wilson:

- Steve Kelley

Social Media Coordinator:

- Bridget Herrmann

Newsletter Editor:

- Emmy Thevanesan

Webmaster:

- Bryan Swanson

Political Action:

- Ryan Ewanow

Check out all your union membership has to offer!

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs and services that can save you money, assist you in protecting your family, and help you plan for the future.

Legal Service Plan

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

Financial Counseling Program

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning. Plan participants receive unlimited access to toll-free advice weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST) as well as a toll-free hotline for urgent legal assistance outside of these hours.

Meanwhile, the Financial Counseling Program -- provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation. The full-service program provides up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone or virtual consultations with a Stacey Braun Certified Financial Planner. *



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.



Mar/Apr 2024