



**News & Updates  
October 29, 2018**

## **FUSE Party November 5 !**

### **Just a week away!**

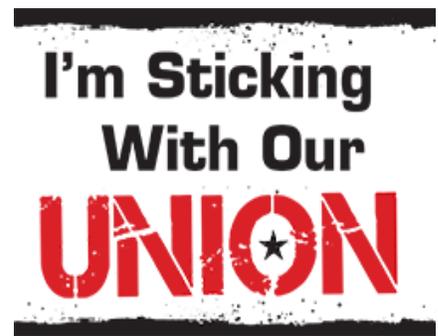
**The FUSE “Pre-Conference Day” Party will make its long awaited return on Monday, November 5!**

The Leadership Council of the union decided to bring back this event as a way of saying “thank you” to our members for sticking with our union, as a way of fostering solidarity and as a way to have a fun and relaxing time together.

The event, open only to FUSE members, runs from 4-7 at Mulino’s at Lake Isle Country Club and includes open bar, appetizers and a DJ for dancing.

Please check with your FUSE Building Reps to RSVP.

**See you next Monday!**



## **Carolyn Bruzzese Appointed SRP Vice-President**

General School Aide Carolyn Bruzzese was appointed FUSE Vice President for School Related Professionals by the Board of Representatives at their October meeting.

Carolyn will serve the unexpired term of Billy Coleman, who became FUSE Executive Vice-President in July. The next election for all FUSE officers will be in May 2020.

Carolyn has been employed by the School District since 2004 and in past years has served as a FUSE building rep at the high school.

## **Welfare Fund Reminder**

**The Financial Counseling opportunity through Stacey Braun has begun. This service is provided free to all active FUSE members between October 1, 2018 and September 30, 2019.**

Information about the program and how to arrange appointments can be found on our website [www.nrfuse.com](http://www.nrfuse.com). Informational Posters with information will be sent to your building reps to be displayed in Faculty rooms.

Building Reps who would like to schedule a “building date” for the consultant to meet with their members in their building should contact Diane Delgado

## SRP Leadership Weekend

School Related Professionals from around the state met in Albany the weekend of October 12. Over 230 SRPs attended the conference - 60 of them attending for the first time! FUSE was represented by our Executive Vice-President Billy Coleman and ALMS Building representative Mary Ellen Girone.

Those attending this weekend's conference reflected on NYSUT's successful summer and autumn campaigns to keep members in the union and attract new hires. Since the Janus

Supreme Court decision allowing people to opt out of paying mandatory dues despite enjoying the benefits of union membership such as collective bargaining, NYSUT members have been out visiting colleagues and explaining to them why it's worth sticking with their union. It's this type of grassroots organizing that leads to stronger workplace rights, such as the new legislation guaranteeing due-process protections.

The conference offered SRP leaders the opportunity to share concerns with NYSUT's elected leaders and to attend workshops on topics ranging from political action, member engagement, safety and health

in the workshop, collective bargaining and other topics of interest.

Attendees also brought books to donate to a NYSUT local for distribution to schools in that district. This year, the selected local was Syracuse.

FUSE also received an award from NYSUT for its work in increasing its VOTE/COPE contributions over the past year. Our members know how essential it is that our union has a strong voice in the political arena to protect the rights of workers, support public education and advance the cause of organized labor.

Next year's conference is set for October 4 -6 2019. Contact Billy Coleman if you are interested in participating.

For more information -- and pictures -- from the weekend, go to [the NYSUT website](#).



## Grievance Committee Meets

Last week, the FUSE Grievance Committee met for the first time in the 2018-2019 school year. Chairman Glenda Bryant sought input from the committee on several potential contract disputes that could lead to the union filing formal grievances. She also reviewed the positive results of one grievance filed earlier this year to resolve a dispute regarding employee compensation.

The committee also identified several topics for upcoming "Know Your Contract" articles for the union's newsletter.

The members of the Grievance Committee are Aisha Cook, Mary Ellen Girone, Lauren Lanigan, Candace Pinn and Lily Psychopedas.

***Worth a Second Read:  
From NYSUT:***

## Growth scores aren't 'worth the paper they are printed on'

As teachers begin to receive their state-required evaluations, New York State United Teachers today characterized the mysterious “growth scores” that are pretending to measure their effectiveness as “not worth the paper they are printed on.”

“They should be tossed right into the wastepaper basket,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “New Yorkers overwhelmingly support their teachers and their public schools.

They already know that our educators are caring, dedicated, professional — and highly effective with students. Parents are supportive and students are graduating at near record rates. They don't need some mysterious mathematical algorithm cooked up in secret to tell them that. **New Yorkers also know — as we at NYSUT most emphatically do — that students and their teachers are much more than their standardized test scores, especially when those scores are based on long, frustrating and unreliable state tests that don't produce useful information for anyone.**”

Pallotta added, “Bogus evaluations produced by the state, tied to indecipherable mathematical formulas and invalid, inaccurate standardized tests, are precisely why state legislators must act immediately to pass evaluation reform legislation.”

Pallotta noted that [legislation to vastly improve the teacher evaluation process](#) sailed through the Assembly last spring and the governor indicated he would sign it. Its Senate “same as” companion — S.8301 — garnered bi-partisan support from 55 of the 63 senators, but fell victim to the charter industry's lust for even more funding in the session's waning hours.

“ This legislation makes the evaluation system fairer. It would once-and-for-all decouple these flawed standardized tests from teacher evaluations and permanently eliminate the state growth score. It would return evaluations to local control, where districts and local unions can decide, through collective bargaining, on performance review systems that meet the unique needs of their own communities,” Pallotta said. “Passing this bill — and eliminating junk science while ending the state's testing obsession — will be NYSUT's highest legislative priority. Teachers deserve evaluations which are fair; help them to hone their already high skill level, and meet the needs of their own students and communities. This bill does that.”

