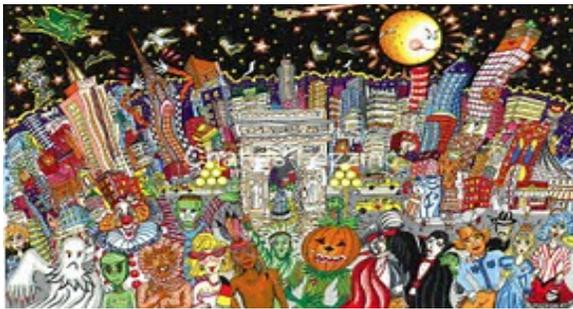




News & Updates
October 16, 2017

New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence

As part of its 20th anniversary celebrations, The New Rochelle Fund for Educational Excellence is sponsoring an exciting exhibit at the Museum of Arts and Culture at New Rochelle High School that opens this week!



Opening today, October 16 and running through November 30, the Museum will host an exhibit of the works of locally and internationally acclaimed artist Charles Fazzino. Fazzino is an American pop artist, known for his silkscreen serigraphs in a 3D pop art style. His artwork incorporates influence from urban landscapes, sporting events, and modern celebrities.

The show, entitled “The 3-D World of Fazzino” will showcase many of the artist’s most famous and instantly recognizable works.

The “Opening Reception” with the artist and his team is scheduled for October 25 from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Museum, followed by an after party at the Beechmont Tavern.

The museum is open during regular school hours from 8:00 to 3:00, with special evening and weekend hours scheduled throughout November. Check the Fund’s [museum events webpage](#) for detailed information.



Support the Fund’s 20th Anniversary

Go to the Fund’s 20th anniversary fundraising page and make a donation to advance the Fund’s mission to “develop, fund and implement high-quality educational and enrichment



programming that enhance the school experience and help students thrive and succeed along their educational journey.”

The Fund’s programs include the Poetry Out Loud night for elementary students, the annual Civics Symposium at NRHS, art exhibits at the Museum of Arts and Culture, the ACT/SAT prep courses, the Rubie Saunders Literary Festival at NRHS and so many more activities and programs that make such a positive difference in our schools for our extraordinary, diverse student body.

Know Your Contract Question: Using “Unspecified Personal Days”

Q: I was told that I can take personal days without specifying a reason. Is that true?

A: Yes - under certain conditions.

Our contract allows members who have accumulated a certain number of sick days the opportunity to take “personal days” without specifying a reason.

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It is important to note that “*accumulated days*” do not include the current year’s allotment of days, and can be found under the column labeled “Prior” on your paystub.

Employees who have **40 accumulated days** may take **2 two personal days** without stating a reason.

Employees who have **80 accumulated days** may take **3 “unspecified” personal days**

Employees who have **180 accumulated sick days** may take **5 unspecified personal days.**

Of course, members must notify the school district of their absence using Aesop and may not take “unspecified” personal days immediately before or after a holiday period. Additionally, a member may not use more than three consecutive “unspecified personal days” without obtaining prior approval from the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.

In 2009, in response to members’ suggestions, the union was able to decrease the number of “accumulated days” that are required to take advantage of the “unspecified personal days.”

NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund

Several members have asked about making contributions to help those affected by the recent hurricanes. In response to the recent disasters, NYSUT has activated its Disaster Relief Fund to aid union members in places hit hard by Irma and Harvey.

Set up after Katrina in 2005, our fund has so far distributed more than 4,000 grants totaling about \$2 million to help ease the pain of union families suffering from the effects of these disasters. In 2012 after Superstorm Sandy, NYSUT members



contributed more than \$700,000 to help their fellow New Yorkers on Long Island, New York City and communities downstate.

NYSUT already sent one big check to help in the recovery, and we are actively collecting money to grow the Disaster Relief Fund so we can do even more.

Solidarity is central to what it means to be in a union. We care for each other. We care for our members, the students and patients we serve. And, we care for the communities in which we live and work.

NYSUT President Andy Pallotta put it best when he said “In these fractured times, unions are embracing the message that an injury to one is an injury to all. Unions are about helping people embrace their common humanity, pursue the common good and help their neighbors – regardless of their differences.”

To make a contribution to the Disaster Relief Fund, go to [NYSUT Disaster Relief - Make a Donation.](#)

VOTE No on the Constitutional Convention

A waste of tax dollars

1. Experts estimate a constitutional convention will cost hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars.
2. Lawmakers can collect salaries and pension credits as elected officials and as delegates simultaneously.
3. The last time a constitutional convention took place, it cost taxpayers millions and accomplished nothing.
4. Constitutional conventions don't have mandatory end dates – delegates keep meeting and taxpayers keep paying.
5. Should taxpayers fund a party for Albany insiders? No!



Labor rights at risk

1. At risk: The right to unionize and bargain collectively. Your union's strength could be jeopardized.
2. At risk: Workers' compensation. Safeguard your rights if you're injured on the job.
3. At risk: Public pension protections. The constitution guarantees your pension will be there.
4. Other states have made drastic pension changes with disastrous results for active members and retirees. Don't let it happen here!
5. Don't risk your rights/your future. Vote NO!

For more information go to:

- www.nonewyorkconvention.org
- www.nysut.org/concon