



News & Updates October 1, 2018

FUSE Party to Make a Comeback! Save the Date!

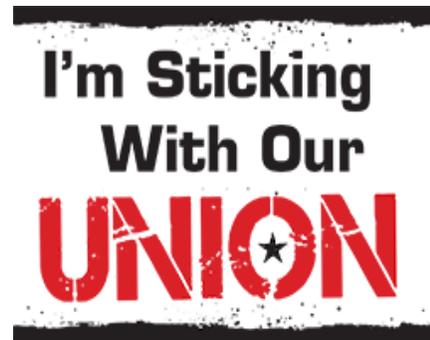
It's back! The FUSE "Pre-Conference Day" Party will make its long awaited return on Monday, November 5!

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 DJ for dancing.

RSVP options and a few other details will be worked out in the next week or so -- but for now, save the date and spread the word to other FUSE members. We're looking forward to a great afternoon on November 5!

Thanks to Vice President Aisha Cook for taking on the planning and organizing for this event.



FUSE Office Moves to 270 North Avenue

After over 30 years at 2 Hamilton Avenue, the FUSE office has relocated to 270 North Avenue, Suite 809 (the Chase Bank Building).

Since pictures can tell a better story, here are some "Before and After" photos that show our progress.





As planned, our new office is open for business today!

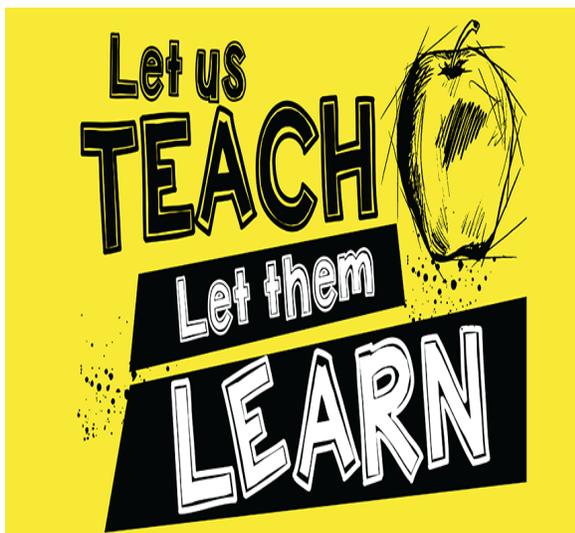
Thanks to Executive Vice-President Billy Coleman and Treasurer Ann Marie Manganiello for handling all of the myriad of details to make this move possible and for the hours they spent this weekend making sure our office would be ready to serve our members as quickly as possible.

From NYSUT:

Badly Flawed State Tests Pegged to Invalid Measures of Proficiency

Student test scores [released today](#) are based on badly flawed standardized tests that are tied to invalid and inaccurate “proficiency” benchmarks — and were provided to teachers and schools too late to be helpful, New York State United Teachers said.

“It is better that scores are up, but it doesn’t change the fact that the state’s standardized testing program — and the way it determines student proficiency — is badly broken,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “The tests remain too long and frustrating for our students and don’t provide meaningful information to parents and educators. If the state wants to earn back the trust of parents and educators, it must fix its standardized testing program and more accurately measure student success.”



NYSUT Executive Vice President Jolene DiBrango said, “The State Education Department still doesn’t have it right. These standardized tests continue to mislabel and harm students and their local schools. In many instances, they are still not developmentally appropriate. They frustrate students and their teachers. The system must change. Students and teachers deserve better than this.”

DiBrango said the State Education Department has failed to adjust the troublesome proficiency

benchmarks to take into account changes in the state tests. “The state’s measuring stick for determining ‘proficiency’ remains badly flawed, painting a misleading and harmful picture of our public education system. In simple terms, they do not add up. The benchmarks must be fixed before any more students or schools are incorrectly labeled.”

While the test scores are being released publicly today, DiBrango noted that educators and school districts received students’ scores less than one week before the start of school — about four months after students in grades 3 through 8 sat for four long, frustrating days taking standardized tests in English Language Arts and math.

This is why the “opt-out” movement is still growing and more important than ever!

Check out “[The Tyranny of Testing](#)” a compilation of first-hand accounts detailing the many problems educators and students experienced during the 2017 round of grades 3—8 state standardized testing.

Reminder:

Union is Looking to Fill Two Positions on Leadership Council

The Membership Chairperson is a title that has been vacant since 2001. However, in the light of the Supreme Court’s recent Janus decision, it has been recommended by NYSUT that locals designate a member handle many of tasks now needed to manage membership records and insure that all employees are invited and encouraged to join our union.

The position would also be tasked with membership outreach and engagement in both activism and mobilization. The Membership Committee, might also develop and coordinate district wide efforts to demonstrate solidarity in coordination with other labor unions and/or organizations.

Beyond accurate record keeping, the overall goal of this committee would be to work to increase district wide member involvement in union activities.

The Membership Committee Chairperson reports to and works under the direction of the FUSE President and Executive Vice-President.

The Chairperson of the Professional Issues Committee represents the FUSE on labor-management committees addressing professional issues such as the APPR Committee and the Professional Development Plan Committee for example. The chairperson or members of the committee, provide input on new directives that impact teacher professional responsibilities or impact staff working conditions. Additionally the chairperson could participate in NYSUT committees dealing with professional issues.

The committee, with the chairperson, would work to provide clear understanding of the negotiated APPR plan to our members, and ensure proper implementation. Committee members would work to disseminate new information or updates throughout the buildings.

The other responsibility envisioned for this role was that the chairperson, in concert with other members of the Leadership Council, particularly the Grievance Committee Chairperson, would address members’ concerns with the implementation of the APPR, Teacher Improvement Plans etc., by ensuring that members are treated fairly and that both our contract and the member’s due process rights are protected.

Recently, the committee has expanded the scope of its work to include advocating for changes to the the state's APPR legislation by lobbying elected officials and members of the Board of Regents.

The Professional Issues Committee Chairperson reports to and works under the direction of the FUSE President and Executive Vice-President.

Members who are interested in either position should email Marty or Billy Coleman no later than October 12. It is hoped that both positions will be filled by October 31.

