



**News & Updates**  
**September 24, 2018**

## **FUSE Office to Close This Thursday and Friday and Re-open Monday, October 1 at Our New Location**

The union office will be closed Thursday and Friday to facilitate our move to 270 North Avenue, Suite 809 (the Chase Bank Building).

The plan is to have all our furniture, files and equipment moved on Thursday to the new location and Friday and Saturday will be spent organizing, unpacking and, most importantly, getting computers connected, and the making sure the phone lines and internet connections are up and running. (**Note: the office phone number (914-636-7999) will not change!**)

The new office is slated to be open for business Monday morning.

Members needing to contact the union on Thursday or Friday should email one of the union's officers.



## **Union is Looking to Fill Two Positions on the Leadership Council**

At the September Board of Representatives meeting, the representatives voted to approve a motion reinstating the long dormant 'Membership Chairperson' position as well as to fill the Chairperson of the union's Professional Issues Committee, which became vacant when Cheryl Smith was appointed to chair the Negotiations Committee.

**The Membership Chairperson** is a title that has been vacant since 2001. In the union's bylaws,, the chairperson had been tasked with maintaining records of membership, and informing members of benefits and services available through the local union, its Welfare Fund, and its it state and national affiliates.

The responsibilities listed also include "forwarding affiliation per capitas to state and national organizations" and "collecting and maintaining the dues check- off monies received from the City School District." At the present time, these tasks are the responsibilities of the FUSE treasurer and the FUSE

office manager. The treasurer and the office manager also work to maintain accurate membership records through the NYSUT electronic membership records (EMR) program.

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, would, at the request of the president, participate in district committees and 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.**

## **From NYSUT:**

### ***Regents Listen and Respond to Union's Advocacy on Opt Out Penalties***

Thanks to the advocacy of hundreds of NYSUT members who sent personalized letters to the State Education Department this summer, SED and the Board of Regents have backed down on proposed ESSA regulations that would have unfairly punished school districts where large numbers of students and families opt out of state testing.

When the draft regulations were proposed, NYSUT informed our members about the comment period and they responded with hundreds of letters. Because so many members raised their voices, Chancellor Rosa and the Regents today adopted policies to defend parents' right to opt their children out of flawed standardized tests without penalty or pressure.

Specifically, the Regents:

- Ensured the commissioner would not be able to order school districts with low test participation rates to redirect Title I funds away from the classroom.
- Improved regulations to make it easier for school districts to exit state accountability lists if students are otherwise meeting academic performance targets but still have low test participation rates.
- Prevented the commissioner from designating schools with low test participation rates as SURR schools.

While much more work remains, this is a major victory on behalf of our members.

For more information, [click here](#).

