



Long Beach Classroom Teachers Association

239 Lido Blvd., Long Beach, NY 11561 • 516-897-2175 • www.lbcta.com

Executive Board Minutes

February 11, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm by Keith Harvey.

I. President's Report – Keith Harvey

A. Executive Board Meeting Dates

3/11/19, 3/25/19, 4/8/19, 4/29/19, 5/13/19, and 6/10/19



B. LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser

A very special thank you to the Public Relations committee, led by Amy Leder, for organizing the Bowling Fundraiser and to all that participated. Together we raised over \$6,300 for Sunrise Day Camp.

C. LBSD 2019-20 Budget

There have been some subtle and not so subtle recommendations regarding staffing for a variety of programs next year. The Board is half way through the budget presentations and will be presenting, discussing, and adopting a final draft School Budget during the next four meetings;

February 28, Work Session, Topic: Presentation of Food Services/Capital Projects

March 14, Work Session, Budget Discussion

March 28, Regular Meeting, Topic: Presentation of Final Draft Budget

April 11, Regular Meeting, Budget Adoption

D. School Calendar

The 2019-2020 school calendar has been approved. [Click here](#)

E. Sick Bank Forms

There are currently three forms to request and donate sick days;

[LBCTA Sick Bank Donation Form](#)- You must designate if the days are going to the bank or targeted to a specific member.

[LBCTA Sick Bank Request Form](#)- This form allows you to request days for your own personal serious health condition under FMLA. You complete the first two pages and your doctor completes the last three.

[Family Member Sick Bank Request Form](#)- This form allows you to request days for a family member's serious health condition under FMLA. You complete the first two pages and your doctor completes the last three.

Keith Harvey

President

Karen Bloom

Executive Vice-President

Amy Leder

Vice-President for Secondary Schools

Beth Prostick

Vice-President for

Elementary Schools

Patricia Van Loon

Recording Secretary

Elleen Parks

Corresponding Secretary

James Fiola

Treasurer

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F. Election of Officers and Delegates

Thank you very much to Jennifer Garrett, Dana Monti, and Stacey Rice for volunteering to serve on the Board of Elections. Please see the committee reports for this year's election procedures of officers and delegates.

G. 403(b) and 457 2019 Maximum Allowable Contribution Limits

The IRS announced the 2019 Maximum Allowable Contribution limits. While the catch-up limits remain unchanged at \$6,000, the elective deferral limits have increased from \$18,500 to \$19,000. Some employees may be entitled to contribute the additional \$6,000 to their plan(s) thereby increasing the elective deferral limit to \$25,000. Individuals with at least 15 years of service with their current employer may be entitled to make additional catch-up contributions. For more information please contact your financial advisor.

H. Scholarships

1. 2019 LBCTA Scholarship Please contact Pat Fallon if you are interested in helping evaluate the applications. It would be wonderful if every building was represented. The evaluation of these applications will take place on Wednesday, March 20 immediately after-school at the High School.

Reminder- The association will once again be awarding two \$1000 scholarships to graduating seniors who are children of CTA members. To be eligible for a CTA scholarship, the student must graduate from his/her high school in either January or June 2019. He/she may attend high school in any city or town. A parent must have been a dues-paying member of the CTA for at least three full years and currently paying dues unless on family or medical leave. Those interested and eligible may request an application from Pat, by email at pfallon@lbeach.org. The closing date for receipt of the completed application and all supporting documents, submitted in duplicate, is 2 PM on Friday, March 15.

2. AFT Robert G. Porter Scholars Program This program offers four 4-year, \$8,000 post-secondary scholarships to students who are dependents of AFT members, as well as 10 one-time \$1,000 grants to AFT members to assist with their continuing education.

[Click here to apply.](#)

3. 2019 Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund, Len Motisi Memorial Scholarship Children of in service members of NYSUT locals, who are high school seniors, graduating this year, and who will be attending a post-secondary institution on a full time basis, are eligible. If you would like an application please contact me.

I. Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund Grants

1. Emergency Financial Grant Members of NYSUT Locals who are in dire need of financial assistance due to: (1) death or serious illness in the immediate family requiring expenditures exceeding \$3,000 "out of pocket" and not covered by insurance, (excluding co-pays and deductibles) (2) sudden personal catastrophe loss, requiring expenditures exceeding \$3,000 "out of pocket" such as loss of home by fire, etc., not covered by insurance. (excluding co-pays and deductibles) [Click here.](#)

2. Military Grant In-service members of NYSUT who have been called up to active military service in the United States armed forces and who as a result suffer loss of income.

[Click here.](#)

3. Burial Grant Payable to the individual who incurs the funeral expenses of any member of a participating local who dies while in active service. [Click here.](#)

J. APPR De-Linked-Update

During the last Executive board meeting I presented that, “the NYS Senate and the Assembly passed a bill to eliminate the mandatory use of state assessments to determine a teacher or principal's effectiveness.” The bill still has not been delivered to the Governor. To track the progress [click here](#).

K. FLEX Spending-Reminder

Reminder flexible benefits may be used for unreimbursed medical or dental expenses or dependent care. The District has opted for a 2.5 month extension plan. Participants may incur expenses through March 15th of the calendar year following the year of the election; all requests for reimbursement must be submitted to the plan administrator (Preferred Group) no later than March 31st.

L. Study Money Dates

There is one more opportunity to participate in the Study Money Program: Summer- May 10, 2019. Members with permanent or professional certification may apply for up to \$1,750 in study money per semester. The application is available online at [Request for Participation in Study Program - Group A](#).



M. Coach Pay Dates

High School Winter: 2/15
Middle School Winter II: 2/15 and 3/15
High School Spring: 4/12 and 5/23
Middle School Spring: 4/26 and 6/7

II. Committees

A. Grievance Committee—Karen Bloom

1. There are no grievances to report at this time.
2. Please contact me if you have any issues that you feel are a violation of our contract.

B. Negotiation Committee—Chief Negotiator’s Report—Keith Harvey

There is no report at this time.

C. Board of Elections - Jennifer Garrett

The following positions will appear on this year’s ballot: President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President for Elementary Schools, Vice-President for Secondary Schools, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, NYSUT Delegate (2) and AFT Delegate (3). If you are interested in running for any of these positions you must notify me in writing by **March 15th** at jgarrett@lbeach.org. You will be notified when your letter of intent is received and you will be supplied with a copy of the petition that you can use to secure the necessary 35 signatures in order to appear on the ballot.

Candidates must submit petitions to me with signatures of thirty-five (35) members of the association who support your candidacy by **March 30th**. No person may be an officer of the LBCTA unless he or she has been granted tenure and has been an active member for two consecutive years immediately prior to election. In addition, no person may be President of LBCTA unless he or she has previously been an officer of the LBCTA, a member of the Executive Board, an elected delegate, or a member of a standing or special committee within the previous 5 years. Thank you!

D. New Member Committee—Jim Fiola

1. The Spring New Member Buddy Party will be on March 22nd at the Point Ale House after-school. Spread the word. An email will follow shortly before the event. Enjoy the winter break!

2. You can direct any questions or concerns via email to Jim Fiola at jfiola@lbeach.org or Alison Katulka at akatulka@lbeach.org. **Please contact us if you don't have a buddy or mentor.** Don't be afraid to ask questions. There are **many** people here who will help you.

E. Political Action Committee—Beth Prostick

1. Denver teachers went on strike Monday after failing to reach a deal with administrators on pay. For the first time in 25 years, Denver teachers are on strike. The move comes after failed negotiations with Denver Public Schools administrators over base pay.



2. I would like to form a small committee to hold our Board of Education candidates interviews. If you are interested in being on the interview committee please email me at LBCTAPAC@gmail.com. These interviews will most likely be held in early April.

3. With the NYSUT MAC App, you can use your smartphone to quickly and easily take action on important issues and legislation. Follow the links below to get started.

[Get the iPhone/iPod Touch app](#)

[Get the Android app](#)

The app does all the work for you. It takes your zip code and quickly determines your legislators so you can start taking action right away. You can:

Make a free call to legislators.

Fax your legislators a letter with one click.

Get push notifications for alerts on the latest actions.

Have some fun, too: take more action to get your name on the Leaderboard.

F. Public Relations—Amy Leder

LBCTA 3rd Annual Bowling Fundraiser



There are not enough words or thank yous that would justify how wonderful our members are. Our Bowling Event was a true team effort that allowed us to raise \$6300 to be donated to Sunrise Day Camps. It was an amazing sight to see RVC Lanes packed with our members. The sportsmanship and camaraderie was incredible. We loved the dedication and spirit with each team personally created team shirt. To every single member who attended, thank you for your time and dedication to our cause. The event was only a success because of you. To our outstanding building reps. What would we do without you? Thank you for making this event a priority

with your building. The raffle baskets have been a huge success with our fundraiser. A personal thank you to Jennifer Garrett, Karen Bloom, Lauren Behan, Jim Fiola, Keith Harvey, Ali Katulka, and Beth Prostick for being the best PR team around. I am truly appreciative that you volunteered your time to organize such an amazing event. Finally to Patty Van Loon who was my behind the scene woman making sure that every “i” was dotted and “t” was crossed. She created new ways of organizing this event and was at my side every step of the way. I am forever grateful.



G. Social Committee—Elleen Parks

1. We are pleased to report that we have 16 members that are retiring. We will celebrate with our honorees on Wednesday, May 29 at Bridgeview in Island Park at 5:00.
2. Thank you to Amy Leder for making our LBCTA fundraiser for Sunrise Day Camp a successful event!!

H. Teacher Center—John Marr

The LBTC is working to provide high quality professional development classes for all teachers and TAs. We are having a virtual open house to create a new National Board Teaching cohort on Monday, February 25 from 6-7pm. Please RSVP to lbtc@lbeach.org by February 20. As per a district MOA between the LBCTA and Long Beach Schools, each of the four components will count as 45 inservice hours or may be used as three-graduate credits in terms of salary advancement.

III. Executive Vice President’s Report—Karen Bloom

- A.** We are both frustrated and disappointed that major science curriculum changes are being implemented at both the middle school and high school level without any departmental discussions involving the high school science teachers. These changes have major implications in the high school and we would like to make sure that all of these issues are being addressed. As of yet, none of them have even been discussed with us. We have tried on many occasions to enter into a department-wide discussion with Dr. Lovrich, who still has not entertained our requests to discuss the impending changes. These are not just changes in course sequence, as it is being suggested. The removal of Honors science classes at the high school as well as 7th grade accelerated science will have a huge impact on future courses in the high school. We want to make sure that our students at both the middle school and the high school are afforded the opportunities to be challenged with a more rigorous curriculum, and that they are properly prepared to take upper level college and/or IB science classes. At the very least, the teachers who are in these classes, teaching our children, and who are most familiar with the curriculum, should be part of the discussions and potential changes taking place. It is insulting, to say the least, to not even be consulted; and to find out information from parents and students before even hearing it from our own director!

B. APPR

1. Please take an active role in the observation process. Keep in mind that the Danielson framework that we use is based on best practice and observable measures. You should not see opinions from your evaluation team. Be sure to address issues in your post observation conferences.
2. You should also receive a document stating what your SLO is and how your growth scores will be calculated. Make sure that you are aware of what your pre-and post-tests are as well as your targets for students.
3. Feel free to contact me if you have specific concerns regarding APPR.

C. Health & Safety Committee

1. NYSIR Inspections- The districts’ insurance company performs walkthroughs to let us know what potential problems exist. Some of the issues are; blocked rescue windows, blocked exits, combustible materials on classroom doors, rescue windows and within two feet of the ceilings and doorways, chemical products not purchased by the district in classrooms (wipes, sprays, air fresheners etc.), adult, non-safety scissors accessible to elementary school students and guards on machines and paper cutters. Please be aware of these restrictions.

2. We requested that “acceptable wipes” be available to teachers to clean rooms and offices as necessary. Steve Lahey will provide these to the buildings and your building principal should reach out and ask if you need them.
3. Traffic Study update- The traffic study was forwarded to the Board of Education for their review.
4. Capital Projects Update-At the next board of education meeting, many capital projects will be discussed: Lindell Auditorium, HS Fieldhouse, A/C in schools, and Food Services.
5. Keys- We are still waiting for approval from SED in order to move forward with changing locks and keys to be consistent throughout the district. If approved, work will be done this summer.
6. High School Roof- The assessment was completed. The EPC Company plans to start in April. This includes both fixing the roof as well as the addition of solar panels. In addition, the district also plans to complete the rear roadway, the bulkhead and the pond projects this summer. Due to the large amount of work, there will be NO summer school at the high school this year.
7. HS Cafeteria- The architect has submitted the plans to the state. The project is scheduled for completion in the summer. The windows on the 3rd floor will be replaced with walls that have very small viewing windows at the top.
8. Please continue to inform your head custodian if you have any air quality or temperature issues in your classrooms.
9. If you have any Health & Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

D. District Safety Team

1. Tabletop Exercises/ Scenarios-We discussed bus accidents and who is responsible for contacting parents. It was decided that if the bus is coming in to school, then the school personnel would be responsible and that if the bus is leaving, then transportation will call.
2. We also discussed lockdown drills and some of the issues surrounding them. Admin was reminded that all drills should start with, “Lockdown, Lockdown, Lockdown”. They should NOT use the word drill and all teachers and students should remain in their rooms until they are released by authorized personnel. Please remind students to turn phones off as well.
3. If you have any District Safety issues that you are unable to resolve at the building level, please email me at kbloom@lbeach.org.

E. Other

1. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Bowling Fundraiser!! A HUGE thank you to Amy Leder for organizing the event!
2. Have a great winter break!
3. Please remember to attend School Board meetings whenever possible.
4. Please consider donating days to our District Sick Bank. The form is on our website at www.lbcta.com.

IV. Vice President for Elementary Schools’ Report—Beth Prostick

- A. Thank you to Amy Leder for another successful bowling event.
- B. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.
- C. Our next Elementary Council meeting will be on March 4 at 3:45 in Lido room L25.
- D. If you have any questions or concerns I can be reached at bprostick@lbeach.org.

V. Vice President for Secondary Schools' Report—Amy Leder

- A. With flu season at its peak, the cleanliness of our buildings are of great concern. Please continue to keep me updated and informed about the cleanliness issues still of concern in your building.
- B. Our next Secondary Meeting is Tuesday, March 5th at 3:15 HS Guidance Conference Room.

VI. Treasurer's Report—Jim Fiola

A. January Financial Results

| <u>Expenditures</u> | | <u>Revenues</u> | |
|-------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| NYSUT | \$14,981 | Union Dues | \$40,272 |
| AFT | 9,062 | Retiree Dues | 90 |
| Taxes and Insurance | 163 | Vending Machine | 192 |
| Meeting Expenses | 83 | Bowling Event Fundraiser | 2,230 |
| Donations | 500 | Total | <hr/> \$40,554 |
| Accounting and Prof Svs | 2,300 | | |
| Public Relations | 273 | | |
| Telephone | 61 | | |
| Total | <hr/> \$27,423 | | |

- B. Please consider donating a sick day to the Sick Day Bank and try to attend an upcoming School Board Meeting. Thank you for reading the minutes and please encourage your fellow members to do the same. Enjoy the much deserved winter break!
Thank you to all who attended the Bowling Fundraiser. It was a fun event and raised a lot of money for a great cause. Congratulations to Amy Leder for an excellent job in leading this effort and to the many others who worked hard to make this event such a fun and gratifying time.
- C. Union dues for 2018/2019 for full-time members will be \$1,014.36. As you can see there was no increase over last year. The break-out is \$397 local, \$378 NYSUT, \$231.36 AFT dues and \$8 PTA. \$101.44 will be taken from your first check of the month and will show up under the column "MDED-03." We are determined to keep your dues as low as possible while still meeting our local obligations and making charitable contributions to the Long Beach community.
The union dues for 2018 tax purposes was \$1,014.40.

VII. Building Reports

A. West School

1. Thank you again to Amy Leder and EVERYONE who participated in the Bowling fundraiser.
2. Everyone have a safe and restful February Break.
3. Please consider donating a sick day to our sick bank.





B. Lindell School

1. Thank you to all who contributed to the bowling fundraiser. Together we raised over \$6,300 for Sunrise Day Camp. A good time was had by all!
2. Congratulations to Danielle Goggin on the birth of her daughter Jessica Ann.
3. The 4th grade Colonial Fair was full of engaging activities for students and their guests. The costumes, projects and presentations were well done.

4. Lindell's 3rd grade students enjoyed an evening of fun with their special someone at the Happy Heart Dance.

5. Kudos to the Food Fun Fitness day committee on a fabulous day of learning about healthy choices and fun ways to exercise with African Dance, Martial Arts, and relays races. Mindfulness exercises and a drumming circle added variety to our day. Much appreciation to all the family, community and teacher volunteers! A special thanks to the PTA for styling our students with motivational bracelets.



6. Thank you to those who have donated targeted sick days. Please consider donating to the sick bank.

C. East School

1. A huge thank you to Amy Leder and her committee for all of the work you had to do to put together such an amazing fundraiser. Thank you to all who played or



donated to our annual Bowling Fundraiser. We were so happy to have one more East School team play this year than last year. Let's keep that increase going in 2020!

2. Congratulations to the 4th grade students and their amazing teachers. This year's Social Studies Fair was a huge success. It is always a real treat to watch historical figures come to life. In addition, this year the students participated in a living timeline and a Boston Tea Party play.

3. We had many staff members who were not able to get a new FOB.

Although the FOBs were recently received, it took over two months to get them. We hope that in the future this can be addressed in a timely fashion.

4. Third-graders and their parents teamed up for a friendly competition on Jan. 18, when they answered geography questions in the Amazing Race. They participated in exciting and funny challenges.

5. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA sick bank if you have not done so already.

D. Lido School

1. Condolences to the Bloom Family on the passing of Annemarie Bloom.

2. Second grade parents, teachers, and students participated in the annual Smart Stories event. A good time was had by all during this literacy activity.

3. Thank you to Lido PTA for organizing the B.I.G. (Be Into Geography) program. The students were excited to learn about the world around us!

4. Congratulations Kathleen McQuade on the birth of her first grandchild.



5. Thank you to Amy Leder and the LBCTA Public Relations Committee for organizing the LBCTA Bowling Fundraiser.
6. Thank you to all who participated in the LBCTA Bowling Event. Your donations and participation are greatly appreciated.
7. Thank you to Lido PTA for sponsoring the Kerboom Kidz dance event. Fun was had by all!
8. Please consider donating a day to the LBCTA Sick Bank.

E. Pre-K

1. Thank you to the Public Relations Committee and Amy Leder for their hard work in organizing the bowling fundraiser.
2. Thank you to all who attended and/or supported this worthy cause. Fun was had by all.
3. Enjoy the winter break.



F. Middle School

1. We celebrated the work of our school counselors during the week of Feb 4th, National School Counseling Week. Thank you to Bob Bajit, Ama Darkeh, and Nilka McDonnell for all that you do.
2. Kudos to our 7th grade students, Ms. Arkow, Mr. Cook, Mr. D'Ottavio, Ms. Ferrante, Mr. Hoffman, Dr. Marr and Mrs. Van Loon on a successful National History Day. Special thanks also go to the many others who volunteered their time to judge our local contest.



3. Congratulations and thank you to Christina Farrell for her service as chairperson for the 2019 All-County Division V Treble Chorus during the Nassau Music Educators Associations annual All-County Music Festival at the Tilles Center at C.W. Post.

4. Congratulations and thank you to Dave Lobenstein for his service as chairperson for the 2019 All-County Division 4 Jazz Ensemble during the Nassau Music Educators Associations annual All-County Music Festival at the Tilles Center at C.W. Post.



5. A very special thank you to Amy Leder, the LBCTA public relations committee, everyone that came out to bowl and all who donated to the annual Bowling Fundraiser. Together we raised over \$6,300 for Sunrise Day Camp. A great time was truly had by all!



6. Thank you to members who have donated sick days to the LBCTA District Sick Bank. Please consider donating if you have not done so already

G. High School

1. Congratulations to Rocco Tenebruso on the birth of his daughter.
2. Congratulations to all teachers and students involved in the recent production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.
3. Thank you to Amy Leder, the public relations committee, and all those who participated in the annual LBCTA Bowling fundraiser. Congratulations to the winning team from the HS.
4. We would like to see the district address the lack of uniform door locks and keys at the HS.



5. The internet connectivity continues to be problematic throughout the HS the past few weeks. It has been extremely disruptive for students and staff.
6. Building cleanliness continues to be an issue.
7. The lack of conversations and input from science teachers regarding the restructuring of the science curriculum is extremely upsetting.
8. The issue of building temperature and climate concerns has been reported for many years by the HS Building committee. The HVAC unit at the HS is in a woeful state. For the past few years the maintenance of the equipment has been a series of temporary fixes that do not address the situation properly. We urge the district to prioritize the addressing of the HVAC situation at the high school.



9. We would like the district to explore and fix the causes of sewage backing up into the woodshop and Photo Lab sinks.
10. While we are supportive of making the HS more secure and recognize the need to move towards a single point of entry, we would like building administration to consider a compromise to allow staff to enter separate entrances in the morning.
11. Please consider donating a sick day to the LBCTA Sick Day Bank.
12. Please consider volunteering to serve on a district committee.
13. Wishing everyone a wonderful Winter Recess.

At 5:10pm, a motion was made by Jonathan Bloom to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Stacey Rice.

In Attendance:

West: Cheryleann Fontenot

Lindell: Heather Puckhaber, Susan Simons, Lisa Rundo

East: Jennifer Maggio

Lido: Dana Monti, Dorothy Lopez, Marilyn Pilo

Pre-K: Elizabeth Fichtelman

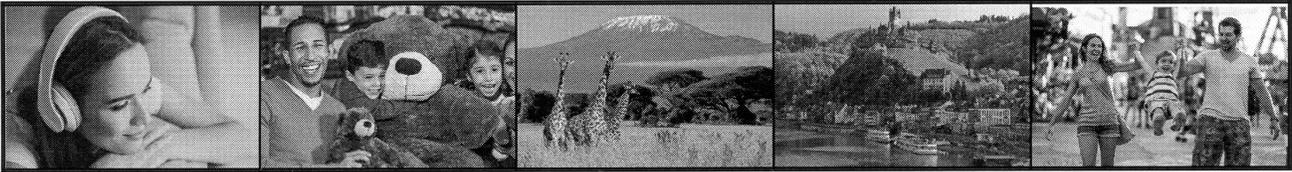
LBMS: Camila Gamboa, Alison Katulka, Stacey Rice

LBHS: Jonathan Bloom, Neil Campbell

Retiree: Frank Volpe

Officers: Keith Harvey, Karen Bloom, Beth Prostick, Amy Leder, Patricia Van Loon, Jim Fiola, Elleen Parks

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Van Loon, Recording Secretary.



Benefits designed exclusively for NYSUT members

NYSUT members and their loved ones have access to dozens of endorsed shopping, travel & personal programs available through NYSUT Member Benefits, including discounts on hotels & vacations; car & truck rentals; international group tours; sports & concert tickets; theme parks & attractions; and more.

Whether you are participating in one of our shopping/entertainment/travel offerings; auto, homeowners or life insurance plans; or financial or legal services, NYSUT members have the "Power of the Union" behind them ready to serve as their advocate.

The following is just a sample of the endorsed programs available to NYSUT members:

Bose -- NYSUT members receive special educator pricing on high-end, high-quality electronics such as music systems, headphones and bluetooth speakers. You must contact Bose toll-free at 877-709-2073 and mention "educator pricing" to receive this exclusive pricing.

Orlando Employee Discounts -- NYSUT members save up to 30% on unforgettable Orlando, FL excursions to Disney World, Universal Studios and many other attractions.

Grand Circle Travel -- NYSUT members can enjoy a number of unique travel deals on international river cruises and other travel opportunities with Grand Circle's small ship cruise tours, river cruises and land tours.

Member Appreciation Month is back!

One of our most popular annual events is set to return this February. The 2019 Member Appreciation Month celebration will be filled with a series of prize drawings for items donated by NYSUT Member Benefits and our endorsed program providers -- including gift cards, iPads, Echo Dots and more!

As a MAP Alert member, you are eligible to win prizes every single day throughout the month of February.

All MAP Alert members are already entered to win; if you have colleagues who would like to be eligible to win, they simply need to sign up for our MAP Alert service on the Member Benefits website. Prize winners will be listed daily on the Member Benefits website.



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call **800-626-8101**.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

Jan.Feb. 2019