

## APPR NEWS

- You should all receive your summative evaluation rating by Sept 1st.
- The APPR handbook is soon to be published and distributed to all our members.
- There are two sections in the handbook - one for classroom teachers and one for non-classroom teachers.
- The new 3012d evaluation system combining tests and observations only applies to classroom teachers. Non-classroom teachers are evaluated based only on your observations and uses specific rubrics designed for your specialty areas.
- If you have any questions about your summative ratings please contact your building coordinator (BC). There is an appeals process in place for developing or ineffective ratings for classroom teachers. Anyone can write a rebuttal and attach it to your summative evaluation. Please contact your BC for help in writing your rebuttal if you are unsure how to write one.
- When in doubt about anything involving APPR please contact your BC.
- If interested in being part of the APPR committee, please contact your BC.

## MEMBER BENEFITS PROGRAMS

Calendar of upcoming events:

**Oct 26, 2016** — Benefits Fair for all members @Freeport Yacht Club 3-5:30 PM

- Investment companies
- NYSUT Member Benefits
- Mortgage and Insurance Savings
- Chinese Auction –proceeds to benefit the Freeport community

**Nov 9 2016** - Retirement Seminar by Hank Sessa at Freeport Memorial Library from 4 –6 pm

- ◆ Financial Retirement Strategies
- ◆ How and When to File For Retirement
- ◆ Benefits Information
- ◆ Q and A Session
- ◆ Designed for all members

**If you are an AT & T phone subscriber you can get a discount. Mention you are an AFT member and you can get a discount thru their Union Plus program. See [www,AFT.org](http://www.AFT.org) for further information.**

### Freeport Teachers Association

Office hours: 10 –3 Mon– Thurs 10-1 Fri  
Office Phone : 516 442-0373 Fax: 516 442-0374  
30 S. Ocean Ave Suite 305 Freeport, NY 11520  
[www.freeportteachers.org](http://www.freeportteachers.org)



## FTA FORUM

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### WELCOME BACK!

This year promises to be an exciting challenge for all of us as we work to prepare our students for life. That challenge will bring us face to face with a very diverse student body that provides us with joy and inspiration, and also brings out the best we have to offer in order to meet the needs of this student body. You will undoubtedly be frustrated at times, confused at times, and anxious at times. I would venture to say you will also feel triumphant, rewarded, and satisfied as well.

You are involved in a noble venture – shaping the future of our world one child at a time. Take the time to enjoy the process, enjoy the successes of your students, and work hard to improve upon the lack of success while noting the positives and encouraging continued attempts to succeed.

We have one of the most talented staffs in the country. We have to be in order to overcome the unique and varied challenges that our students bring to our jobs every day. You will find that by working together, sharing ideas, and forging new strategies together with your colleagues that you will be able to overcome the difficult issues you face. We are always stronger together than alone.

**HAVE A GREAT YEAR!!**

## **NYSHIP Healthcare Buyout ( 122r3) News-**

- On June 9, 2016, the NYSUT legal team was successful in their appeal of the lower court ruling that allowed the Civil Service Commission to disallow the buyout benefit to our members who use NYSHIP Health Insurance as well as their spouse. It was a unanimous ruling by the NYS Appellate Court.
- On July 19, 2016, the NYS attorney general filed a motion for leave to appeal to the Court of Appeals with the Appellate Division. There are plans to oppose this motion, but in the short term, impacted members will have to wait longer to receive any buyback money they are potentially owed under the contract.
- At the end of the Legislative session in June 2016, a bill was adopted by the Assembly and the Senate which would prohibit the Department of Civil Service from restricting the ability of school districts and BOCES that participate in the NYSHIP from offering a health insurance buyout option to employees that have spouses employed by another participating employer, that is, one that also offers NYSHIP coverage.
- Governor Cuomo did not sign the bill into law, therefore the legislation has no effect.
- Expect the a similar bill to again be adopted by the Assembly and the Senate , and NYSUT will mount an aggressive campaign to make sure it gets signed into law this fall.
- Go to <http://www.nyssba.org/news/2016/07/21/on-board-online-july-25-2016/court-resolves-controversy-for-now-over-nyship-buyout-benefit/> for more details.

## **WHAT THE UNION NEEDS FROM ITS MEMBERS**

- Buddies for our new members. We have over 70 first and second year members who would truly benefit from the experience and wisdom of our tenured members, Our new colleagues face a difficult challenge in being tenured under the new guidelines of 3012 –d. We are actively working on creating the most favorable conditions for our new colleagues to be our longtime colleagues, We hope that the buddy program will help in this endeavor. Speak with you BC if interested in being a buddy.
- Members who want to collaborate and create professional development ideas and programs for our members who are not necessarily well served by current PD choices. We invite pupil personnel services specialists, nurses, library media specialists, art, music, physical education, health, home and careers, and technology teachers to speak with your BC if interested in being involved with this new venture.
- Members to be part of a Health and Safety Issues Study Team to bring our members' issues and concerns regarding our working conditions to a more advanced platform of research and analysis. Our goal is to be able to successfully advocate for our members concerns about issues such as overheating and air quality in our schools. If interested see your BC.
- Pictures of events involving you or other members in our schools or at events such as Making Strides for Cancer. Information about organizations and/or events that might be of interest to our members such as Autism Speaks. E-mail me at [stuart.napear@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.napear@gmail.com).
- Visit [www.freeportteachers.org](http://www.freeportteachers.org)

## **EDUCATIONAL ACTIVISM**

We are excited to support Carmen Pinyero in her efforts to become the next assemblywoman from Assembly District 18 (AD18). Carmen has a long history with the Freeport schools. She was 6th grade ESL student in Atkinson and went on to graduate from Freeport HS in 1994, Carmen graduated from Univ of Loyola in .MD in 1998, She was a member of the Freeport Schools Board from 2002-2011 and served as the President of the school Board form 2005-2006. Carmen then transitioned to being a member of the Freeport Village Board of Trustees. Carmen and her husband Walter currently have three children in the Freeport Public School system.

Carmen worked for Assemblyman Phil Ramos in Albany for 2 yrs. She is passionate about bringing more of the resources of the state to the village and public schools of Freeport. Carmen is adamantly against charter schools and for a cessation of testing tied to evaluations. She is for changing the age of minors eligible for sentencing to 18 instead of the current 16 yrs of age and for looking at reducing the penalties for possession of non-felony drugs as both of these policies have more of an effect on youth of color.

We also support Anthony Eramo (AD20) and Phil Ramos (AD6) in their Democratic primary runs on Sept 13th because of their strongly stated support of public schools and against using public money to finance charter schools. Eramo is running to replace recently elected State Senator Todd Kaminsky's for assemblyman in AD20.

Phil Ramos has actively campaigned at local events for the Brentwood, Bay Shore , and Central Islip public school systems to stop the expansion of charter schools as an active NYS assemblyman.

This edition of the FTA Forum newsletter is available online at [www.freeportteachers.org](http://www.freeportteachers.org) with hyperlinks.