

Volume 7 Issue 5

February 2017

Freeport Teachers

Association



# FTA FORUM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**On Tuesday, Jan 31st, Betsy DeVos was passed through her committee to be assured of a full vote on the floor of the US Senate on her nomination as Secretary of Education. It appears that there is a real possibility that two of the twelve Republican Senators who voted yes to pass her nomination will vote against her confirmation in a full Senate vote. The financial entanglements of DeVos that would be cause for conflicts of interest, her lack of understanding of basic education policy, and her former actions on behalf of private schools and voucher programs are cause for concern. There are now reports that DeVos plagiarized some of her answers to the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions committee on questions that were submitted to her. It will be important that we reach out to all of our family and friends to phone and write to their US Senators to vote no on Betsy Devos. It appears that all of the Senate Democrats will vote no so just three of the 52 Republican Senators will have to vote no on her confirmation to prevent her from serving . We need to continue to fight this nomination as well as develop a game plan to protect our public schools and our jobs from the continued drive to privatize public education .**

FTA office hours: Monday—Thursday 10 am—3 pm Friday 9 am—1 pm Office Phone: 516-442-0373  
30 S. Ocean Ave. Suite 305 Freeport, NY 11706 [www.freeportteachers.org](http://www.freeportteachers.org) [stuart.napear@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.napear@gmail.com)

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation endorses a variety of Shopping/Travel/Personal Programs designed to help you save a little money while enjoying some well-deserved fun. We are continually working to expand our offerings and provide more of the endorsed shopping/travel/personal programs that NYSUT members love.

### Travel

#### Online shopping

- » Abenity Discounts -- NEW!
- » Office Depot/OfficeMax -- NEW!
- » 1800Flowers.com
- » PayCheck Direct
- » Buyer's Edge, Inc.
- » Working Advantage

- » Premier World Discovery -- NEW!
- » Orlando Employee Discounts
- » Car & Truck Rentals
- » Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals
- » Grand Circle Travel

#### Home Energy Services

- » American Solar Partners
- » Heat USA
- » Propane.Pro

#### Personal Services

- » Tunstall Medical Alert -- NEW!
- » Defensive Driving
- » EPIC Hearing Service Plan

### Entertainment

- » AFT Subscription Services
- » Powell's Books
- » Bose

<http://memberbenefits.nysut.org/program-service/shopping-travel>

If you need your NYSUT member # contact Nicki Gonias at [n.gonias@freeportteachers.org](mailto:n.gonias@freeportteachers.org)

### Opportunities to participate in leadership training

NYSUT Nassau Regional Office Leadership Conference will be a one-day conference at the Crest Hollow Country Club, in Woodbury on Saturday, February 11, 2017. The conference will begin at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:00 p.m. A hot buffet breakfast beginning @ 8:00 a.m. as well as a hot buffet lunch will be served. Three members with no union experience are invited to attend. This is a great conference to get your feet wet if you want to be more involved in developing strategies to lead the union.

### What you can do to fight for public education, your jobs, and to protect your benefits

Building delegates will be directing you to get involved in a letter writing campaign. Building delegates will be handing out information to help you send messages to US Senators and Congressman and State legislators and Governor Cuomo.

### Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday, February 8th at Freeport Memorial Library 3:00 and 4:15**

Elder Care Presentation

**Wednesday, March 8th at Freeport Memorial Library 3:00 and 4:15**

Investing Strategies for members under 45

**Wednesday, April 26th at Freeport Memorial Library 3:00 and 4:15**

Investing Strategies for members 45 and older

If you are not receiving e-mails from [stuart.napear@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.napear@gmail.com) and want to—send me your personal email