

FTA News

30 S. Ocean Avenue Freeport, NY 11520

www.freeportteachers.org 516-442-0373

National Day of Action



On January 19th, people from across the United States stood up to protect and preserve public education. Americans here in New York and across the country opposed Betsy DeVos' confirmation through phone calls, letters, e-mails, and faxes. Although Betsy DeVos was confirmed as Secretary of Education on February 7th, members will continue to stand together - as teachers, as parents, as students, and as communities to ensure public schools remain safe places of support and learning. Union leadership will continue to provide resources, education, and talking points that members can use and share. NYSUT, with its members, intends to double its advocacy on behalf of public education and students. As NYSUT stated, "Public education is the foundation of our democracy. Now, more than ever, we must protect it."

Dear Members,

With a much needed February break nearing, we can reenergize for the upcoming "testing season" that all of our students face in one way or another. Upon our return, we will focus on winning the battles inside our state for funding and for changes in the laws on teacher evaluation, testing, and common core curriculum. We also need to prepare ourselves to defeat the upcoming proposition on the November ballot for a NYS Constitutional Convention. We need to effectively communicate the issues, so that everyone votes "no."

You just saw the video detailing the effects in law changes on the teachers in Wisconsin because they were not vigilant and prepared to fight until it was too late. We all need to be informed of what is happening with our elected officials, and what attempts are being made to privatize public education. We need to speak out for what we believe in and act against the forces that seek to weaken or do away with public education.

Please visit the freeportteachers.org website for up-to-date information and resources. Have a great vacation break!

Stronger together,

Stu Napear

More News

Teacher Union Facts

- Teacher unions protect teachers' rights
- Teacher unions support teacher professionalism
- Teacher unions provide support, guidance, and advice
- Teacher unions can provide legal protection and advice
- Teacher unions allow you a voice in hot educational trends, debates, and topics that you feel strongly about
- Teacher unions give power to the bargaining position of the union for contract and labor negotiations
- Teacher unions provide several discount program opportunities
- Schools with teacher unions often produce higher achieving students

Making Strides against Breast Cancer

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women in the United States, other than skin cancer. The chance of a woman having breast cancer in her life is about 1 in 8. The American Cancer Society is investing in breast cancer research to better understand, prevent, find, and treat the disease. They provide free, comprehensive information and support to people touched by breast cancer, and help people to take steps to reduce their breast cancer risk or find it early when it is most treatable. Many members of the Freeport community participated in the Making Strides walk this past fall. An amazing total of over \$8,500 was raised.



Support Public Education!

Upcoming Union Events at the Freeport Memorial Library

March 8th at 3:00 & 4:15

Investing Strategies for Members under 35

April 26th at 3:00 & 4:15

Investing Strategies for Members 35 and Older

Did you know?

It's never too early to start saving for retirement. Have you set-up/reviewed your 403b and 457 plan? Contact the business office to obtain a list of 403b providers. Visit www.nysdcp.com to obtain additional information about the New York State Deferred Compensation Plan.

NYSUT offers many benefits and discounts to its members. Benefits and discounts include insurance, shopping, travel, personal, legal, and financial. Visit www.nysut.org for additional information.

Nassau Educators Federal Credit Union (NEFCU) is willing to fund your ideas! The Funding Your Ideas Teacher Grants offer teachers and educators a grant award up to \$250 to develop innovative classroom projects. Proposals are currently being accepted. Visit www.mynefcu.org for more information.

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