

Volume 7 Issue 4

January 2017

Freeport Teachers

Association



# FTA FORUM

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome back to your professional life as we quickly transition into the middle of our school year. I hope that you had a wonderful break and enjoyed the time with your family and friends. You can plan for your February break being free of school days if you have not done so already because we have made it past Jan 1st without using any of our emergency weather day allotment.

Talking about emergency weather conditions leads to my next thoughts about the political storm clouds forming in the not too distant future. I sent you a short email on Monday that attempted to quickly lay out the issues we face as union workers, public school employees, and providers for our families. I alluded to bringing you more information to increase your understanding of the issues that we face, and how you will be able to address these issues in what we hope will be successful strategies.

However, not everything that we do as a union or that you attempt to implement as an individual will be successful. It will be important to call upon our other union brothers and sisters in nearby locals and similarly situated locals, to call upon our friends and family, to call upon our colleagues for support when the going gets tough because the going will be tough. Make no mistake about this point— we are in a battle for our survival against well funded and organized foes who want to privatize public education and destroy the union movement for the aggrandizement of their wealth and power and in some cases faith.

It can be truly overwhelming to try to understand the scope of the issues we face so our job as leaders is to bring this information and these strategies to you in ways we hope that you can absorb and adapt. To this extent we have put up some articles that you need to read and actions on the website to take (when possible by you). There is a Day of Action on Thursday Jan 19th that we hope you will take part as members of the Freeport Teachers Association. Details will be forthcoming next week. Other information will be shared in your buildings over the next couple of months. Other events are listed on the back.

In a totally different light we are attempting to provide you with self-help tools and other resources to aid you in making financial decisions, health care decisions, and legal decisions. We have put several resources together (some developed by NYSUT and some from other sites) on our website and hope that you will take a look. If legislators and courts are going to erode your earning power and benefits, then you must be a much wiser investor and much more knowledgeable about changes to the health care system and how these might impact you or your loved ones. You must understand how the legal system can be used to protect your assets as well as your parents assets, and understand how new tax laws may effect your assets such as a second home.

Certainly you as educators must understand the old adage—KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. Make sure to acquire it!

FTA office hours:	Monday—Thursday 10 am—3 pm	Friday 9 am—1 pm	Office Phone: 516-442-0373
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## FTA launches new Financial Planning, Health Care Planning, and Legal Planning Resources

On the home page of our website at [www.freeportteachers.org](http://www.freeportteachers.org) you will find three new areas for you to access under the Resources tab on the left side of the page.

### Financial Planning

Financial and Retirement Calculators  
Financial Wellness Evaluator  
Stacey Braun Interactive Planner  
Kiplinger's Retirement Newsletter  
Kiplinger's Annual Retirement Guide  
403(b) Field and 401K Consumer Guides  
Financial Counseling Program  
Synchrony Bank Savings Program  
ClearPoint Credit Counseling  
ID Watchdog and Additional Resources

### Legal Planning

Preventive Law Guide  
Legal Services Plan

### Health Care Planning

NYSHIP—Empire Plan  
Medicare Right Center Blog  
Medicare Interactive Site  
Kaiser Family Foundation-  
Devoted to National Healthcare Issues

## 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.

The Nassau Regional Office will be holding a Frontline Representation II Workshop for new and experienced building reps. This is for anyone who is a delegate now or wants to be a delegate in the future. It provides information on how to enforce contracts, deal with administrators, legal precedents, etc. This workshop will take place on Thursday, January 26, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Nassau Regional Office. Dinner will be provided. Please respond quickly as this event has a seating capacity limit.

***Send me a request to attend at [stuart.napear@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.napear@gmail.com) or if you are interested but have questions.***

**SIGN THE LETTER TO DEMAND THAT THE NEW ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT HIGH QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR ALL CHILDREN (if you didn't already)**  
at [www.aft.org](http://www.aft.org) the TAKE ACTION gold box on the right side of home page

## Upcoming Events:

**Wednesday, January 11th at Freeport Memorial Library 3:00 and 4:15**

Presentation about NYSUT legal plan and discussion of some legal topics as determined by our survey  
by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco

**Saturday, January 28th at the FTA office from 9am to 3:30 pm**

Defensive Driver Class—\$22 includes continental breakfast—sponsored by Liberty Mutual

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

Health Care Issues Discussion including Elder Care

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

Investing Strategies

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