

The HCT

CONNECTED

Issue: 1
Justina Ketyer, Editor

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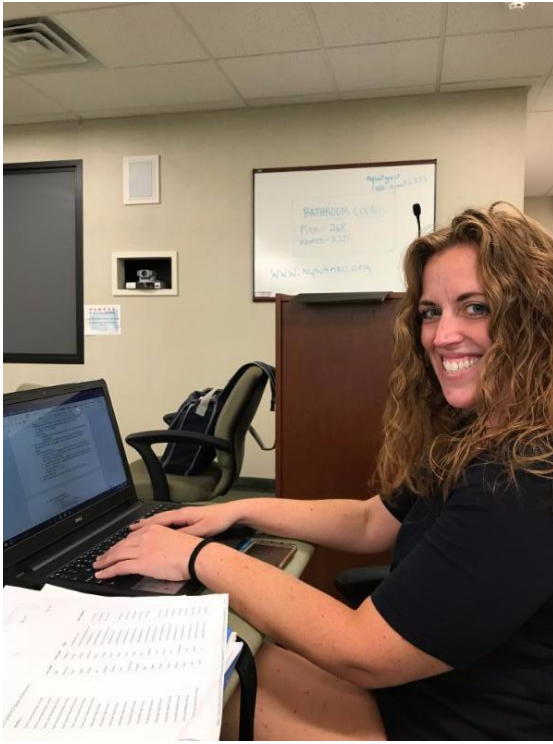
Welcome Back to School

Board of Directors Get a Jump on the School Year

Representatives from each of the nine school buildings met on Wednesday, August 23rd at the NYSUT office in Woodbury to discuss important issues facing our teachers this year. The Board of Directors discussed elements of the tentative contract agreement, new representative training, and expectations for the year ahead.

This year, the HCT will continue many initiatives begun as part of the LAP program in order to increase member involvement, strengthen political action, expand community outreach and improve communications. Be sure to attend your building-level meeting to stay informed about these initiatives and how you can get involved in upcoming events.





Welcoming Our New Members



On Thursday, August 24th, Hicksville Congress of Teachers welcomed 23 new teachers for the 2017-2018 school year. HCT president Tom Glenn discussed the benefits of unions, the value of an involved membership and the challenges facing teachers and unions today. He explained Vote-Cope contributions and the significance of political action on the local, state and federal levels. Glenn also stressed the importance of **voting NO on this year's referendum to open the New York State Constitution**. George Tebbitt and Marc Zimmerman from Plan Member Services presented the teachers with information about contributing to a 403(b) to prepare for their future financial security.

We are pleased to welcome these teachers into our HCT family and we wish them the best of luck this year and beyond!

**Cristina Abate
Jacqueline Busking
Suzanne Caceres
Yohanny Caraballo
Tara Clark
Nicole Colletti
Stefanie Cristina
Catherine Dambrose
Victoria DeSalvo
Kathleen Farrell
Alia Khan
Jennifer LaCava
Victor Lam
Meaghan Lang
Melissa Madsen Lynn
Michalowski Susan Peterson
Stacy Polidoro
Mary-Anne Segal
Zachary St. John
Sarah Strifolino
Corinne Taylor
Brittany Tortorella
Jennifer Weiss**



When you arrive at Hicksville High School, be sure to stop at the **HCT tables** to get your Member Records form, to ensure we have your proper contact information. It is vital to our internal communications.

Just as important, you will be receiving a "**Pledge to Vote 'NO' on the NYS Constitutional Convention**" postcard and relevant educational materials. When you return your completed card, you will receive a gift, compliments of the HCT-- he highly coveted **NYS Con-Con car magnets!**

Remember to come hungry. Back by popular demand is the **HCT Luncheon!** Once again the HCT will sponsor a lunch on August 31st, catered by local favorite, **Roast Sandwich House**. Lunch will be ready to take with you back to your building, following the HCT contract presentation.

The HCT Apparel Store is Open!

The HCT Apparel Store is Open through **Friday September 15th**. This is the perfect opportunity to get your "**Red for Public Ed**" shirt to wear on Tuesdays and HCT gear for "**Wear it on Wednesdays**".



You can **place a special order of HCT apparel online today!** Items may be embroidered with your name for an additional fee.

Ordering is as easy as 1,2,3...

1. Select your items and size*
2. Pay Baxter's Sports Shop directly through our exclusive online store any time in the order window (now through September 15th!)
3. Your order will be available for pick up with your building rep or at the HCT office approximately two weeks after close of the online store

****women's sizes may run small; the women's polo also runs narrow; you may wish to consider that when ordering***

Teacher Appreciation Night with the Ducks



On **September 8th**, the Long Island Ducks will be hosting **TeacherAppreciation/Back to School Night** to celebrate the great

work that Teachers do to educate our children. As part of the festivities, there will be some on field activities including

Some of these on field activities are meant for little kids, some are meant for Pre-teens and Teens, and some are for adults. **If you are interested in participating**, please contact Brian Young, byoung@ucommworks.com or click [here to fill out the form!](#)

Tickets are extremely affordable and can be purchased by clicking here using the promo code **TEACHERS**.

Your Union Supporting Those In Need

Teachers Support the Denaro Family

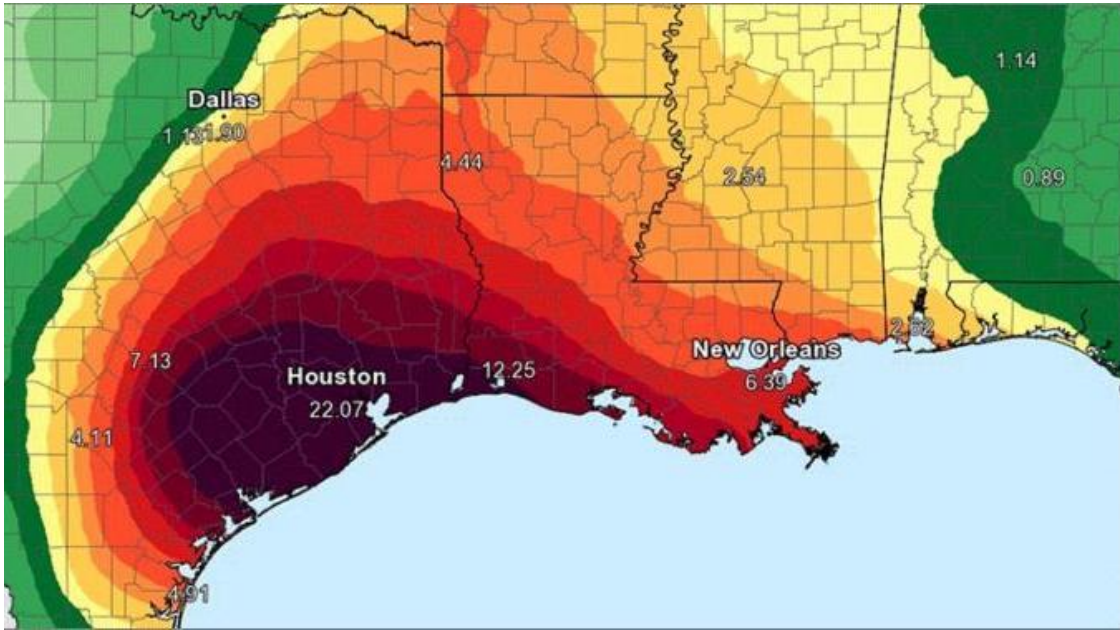


Lee Avenue teachers rolled up their sleeves on Sunday, August 27th to raise funds to help **Ed Denaro (P.E., Lee Avenue)** after his mountain biking accident this summer. This wide-ranging event included a car wash, bake sale, dunk tank, garage sale and raffles to raise funds for donation to the Denaro family.



Members of various groups contributed their time, money and effort including Lee Avenue PTA, Woodland PTA, Hicksville Gardens Civic Association, Hicksville Girl Scouts and Hicksville Kiwanis Club. If you would like to make a donation, please visit the Denaro Family [GoFundMe site](#).

Hurricane Harvey's Victims Desperately Need Your Help



Hurricane Harvey has unleashed death and devastation in Texas, and the storm's remnants continue to dump historic amounts of rainfall - 50 inches is expected - on southeast Texas. As Harvey, now a tropical storm, parks itself along the Gulf Coast, flooding has reached catastrophic levels. At least five people have died and 30,000 people are in need of shelter. First-responders are trying to rescue thousands while battling the rising water.

NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund

NYSUT members can show support for their union colleagues in Texas and other regions affected by Harvey by donating to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund. You can donate online or mail your contribution.

NYSUT will forward all of your donations to the national effort to help the victims of Harvey. The need is urgent.

[Donate to NYSUT's Disaster Relief Fund](#)

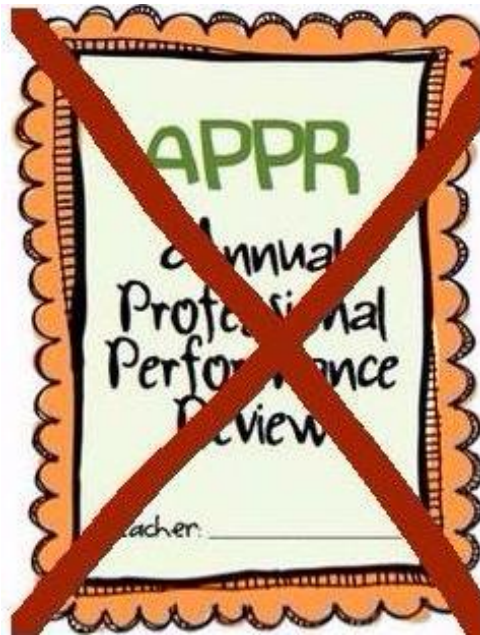
AFT Disaster Relief - Donation Center

Help Our Sisters and Brothers in Texas. The donations to the relief fund will help our members and affected communities-from Corpus Christi to Houston-rebuild. Whether it is home damage, ruined cars, injuries from the floods or even lost school material, we're going to make sure people get back on their feet. And we've been asked to make sure our members in the affected areas see this message-so they know what their union is doing in their time of need.

[Donate to AFT's Relief Fund](#)

Fight to Repeal APPR!

Pledge to Fight to Repeal APPR!



New York's test-and-punish era of education **severely damaged the trust and confidence of parents in our public education system**, as evidenced by the continuing strength of the opt-out movement.

The time for change is now!

Lawmakers and the Regents must listen carefully to educators and parents and adopt a fair evaluation system that totally decouples teachers' evaluations from student test scores; that respects the wishes of local school boards and educators through collective bargaining; and that reflects the teaching and learning experiences that parents, teachers, and students want stressed in their own individual schools.

The school year hasn't started yet, but we're gearing up for a fight. Sign our pledge and we'll be calling on you to help make it happen.

Today, I add my name to those of educators, parents, and education advocates across New York who have signed this Pledge to Fight to Repeal APPR!

[Click here](#) to take the pledge!

News Around the Schools



News Around the Schools

Congratulations to **Jennifer Miraglia (High School)** on her engagement.

Congratulations to **Tracy Koch (High School)** on her engagement.

Our Condolences



Our condolences go out to our members and their families during this difficult time.

Gina Avagliano (Lee Avenue) on the death of her mother.

Valentina Farrelley (Lee Avenue) on the death of her mother.

Sue Reynolds (Lee Avenue) on the death of her father.

Denise Woods (East Street) on the death of her father.

STAY CONNECTED:



Hicksville Congress of Teachers, 535 South Broadway, Suite 212, Hicksville, NY 11801

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