

The HCT

CONNECTED

Issue: 3
Justina Ketyer, Editor

September 14, 2017

President's Pen



From the President's Pen

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Hicksville Congress of Teachers,

Our shared purpose is exceedingly more pressing than any trivial differences we may have with one another. My purpose is larger than me; it's greater than we are on our own. Our differences pale in comparison. We are far more alike than we are different. We are stronger together.

As this new school year moves into mid-September and we settle into our routines, concerns will arise and some will be assuaged, and adjustments will be necessary. We will meet issues head on and take the best course of action for the greater good of our members. That is unionism.

For our newest members these are staples of a new year, part of the learning curve. To those veterans, it is not a revelation. However, unlike in years past, we face a greater unknown on the horizon. The future of the profession now more than ever, is opaque. Forces are at work to 'muddy the waters' with regards to all we have come to know and expect from the fields of public education and unionism. Contrary to what some may believe, the sky may indeed be falling. The aforementioned purpose we share is remaining strong by remaining united.

The first of the bifurcated attacks occurs in roughly fifty-five days. On **Election Day, November 7th, 2017**, as you no doubt know by now, New Yorkers will be asked a simple ballot question at the polls:

"Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend the same?" If we value collective bargaining rights, pensions, public education, protecting the environment, the social safety net providing for citizens in need, and voting rights, to name a few, then the answer must be a **resounding "NO"**. If NYSUT's 600,000 plus members engage their

families, friends and neighbors, make a plan to get to the polls and execute it by exercising their right, I believe we can stave off the first attack.

The ominous threat looming beyond that is more troublesome. In what is a case sure to be taken up by the **U.S. Supreme Court, Janus vs. AFSCME** could potentially have deleterious results for the working middle-class in this country. By essentially gutting collective bargaining rights, this case has far-reaching, nationwide implications to more than just unionized workers. To gain a better understanding of the potential, one need look no further than 2011 when Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker knee-capped collective bargaining rights in his state. A search of the country's **"Right-To-Work"** states will show the disparity in pay, benefits, health care quality, and working conditions versus their unionized counterparts.

My "ask" for all of you is to stay alert, stay informed, stay engaged, and be ready to act at a moment's notice...the profession may just depend upon it.

In solidarity,

Tom Glenn

HCT Contract Ratification

HCT Contract Officially Ratified!

The Board of Education of the Hicksville Public Schools **officially ratified the collective bargaining agreement for the HCT at last night's meeting!**

The HCT vote among our members was a remarkable 390 in favor, 13 opposed!

Important Membership Meeting

SAVE The Date!!



Topic: Dangers of a NYS Constitutional Convention.

The HCT will host a Special Meeting of the General Membership on **Tuesday October 17th** at the Hicksville High School Auditorium beginning at 3:30 P.M. for secondary buildings, 4 P.M. for early elementary, and 4:30 P.M. for late elementary (or whenever you arrive).

Be sure to be on hand for give-aways, door prizes, and raffles!

The Week in Activism

DAILY UNION ACTIVISM

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mac Attack/ Mail It Mondays	Tenure/ "Red-for-Ed" Tuesdays	Wear It On Wednesdays	Thankful Thursdays	Phone Call Fridays

The HCT will continue to offer the membership ways in which everyone can do their part to support our causes, our profession, our union sisters and brothers from other professions, and our colleagues. Throughout the year, each day of the week will feature a recurring theme to activate our members!

MAC ATTACK/MAIL IT MONDAYS

Visit the **[NYSUT Mac App site](#)** or download the app to any internet capable device. It's a fast, easy way to be a button's push away from your elected officials!

OR

Mail It- Send emails to your elected officials or Regent or hard copy letters to the editor about issues important to you. We'll frequently include links to help you out.

Tell Congress to ensure public schools have the resources necessary to provide the education our students deserve.

TENURE/RED FOR ED TUESDAYS

Wear **RED** in support of public education and to show all that our dues process rights allow us to stand in defense of our students and what's best for our communities!

WEAR IT ON WEDNESDAYS

Wear your HCT gear. [Online orders can be placed here until FRIDAY September 15th.](#)

THANKFUL THURSDAYS

Use social media to show your appreciation for being a public educator, activist, and/or union member. Use **#ThankfulThursday** and tag the **@HCT_Union**, **@nysut**, **@LongIslandTeach** on Twitter.

PHONE CALL FRIDAYS

Set some time aside to call your elected officials to let them know your concerns surrounding any host of issues. The ["5 Calls"](#) site will give instructions for downloading the app. It's a convenient way to be connected to your officials with on-the-spot scripts!

THE NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

NOVEMBER 7, 2017

THE "CON-CON COUNTDOWN"

5	3	:	1	0	:	3	6	:	0	2
DAYS		HOURS		MINUTES		SECONDS				
Powered by CountdownMail ©										

Say NO New York Constitutional Convention

Order Extra **"NO New York Constitutional Convention"** materials for your friends and family by **September 15th!**

Email hicksville_teachers@verizon.net with your order. Include your name, building, and quantities.

Remit payment via cash or check made payable to the Hicksville Congress of Teachers to your building representative by **Friday, September 15th** and **be ready to defeat the referendum in style!**



**Buttons
\$.50**



**Magnets
\$1.00**



**Lawn Signs
\$2.00**

NYSUT Phone Banking for NYS Constitutional Convention



Phone Banking for the NYS Constituional Convention

NYSUT and the HCT are asking its members to commit to making calls to get the word out about the Con-Con!

Phone banks will begin at 3:30 P.M. daily and end around 6:30 P.M.

Phone banking are as follows:

September 18, 19, 26, & 27
October 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 19, 23, 24, 25, 26, & 30
November 1, 2, & 6

Tell Congress to preserve DACA and pass the Dream Act

On September 5, President Trump announced that the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program will end in six months unless Congress preserves it. As many as **800,000 young people could be deported**, including many students and educators. Known as Dreamers, they came to the United States as children and know no other country as home. The decision to end DACA sparked protests all across America.



"We will continue to raise our voices in a collective chorus for justice to defend and protect Dreamers and their families. Now more than ever, we need a permanent legislative solution to DACA so these young people can have the certainty they deserve. Congress should not wait six months to permanently fix this decision but instead act immediately to protect DACA recipients and Dreamers, and pass into law the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017," said NEA president Lily Eskelsen García. [take action](#)

The Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) grants legal status and establishes a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children; it also provides a long-term legislative solution for the DACA program. Click on the take action button and support Dreamers by:



Calling your members of Congress toll-free at 1-855-764-1010

Showing your support on social media. **Signing the NEA pledge**
#PROTECTDREAMERS

Welcome Back to a New School Year



The Main Event
799 Old Country Rd
Plainview
Thursday, September 28, 2017
4 PM to 7 PM

*We would love to have you join ME Committee members
for a Welcome Back Happy Hour*

RSVP by September 25th

Kyrstin Stehle
kjdeb31@gmail.com

Support for an HCT Colleague

Fundraising Opportunities to Help HCT Member Ed Denaro

Ed and his family will need continual support for the foreseeable future. The HCT will look at ways in which we can be of support throughout Ed's ordeal.

Please consider taking part in any way you can to help a member in need.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18

6 P M - 1 0 P M

EVERYONE FOR

Eddie

FUNDRAISER

\$60 PER PERSON
OPEN BAR
BUFFET DINNER
RAFFLES
CHINESE AUCTION
50/50
MUSIC COMPLIMENTS
OF DJ ANTHONY



TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.MULS.COM

#WeGotThis

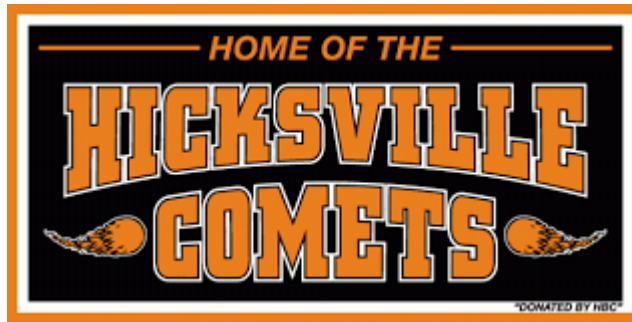


3232 RAILROAD AVE WANTAGH NY 11793 (516) 783-7500

You have also by now received order forms for t-shirts in your buildings. In a show of solidarity, we ask that anyone who purchases one, to please wear them to school on **Friday October 13th, 2017**, the day before Hicksville High School's Homecoming.

Show Your Hicksville Spirit

Go Hicksville Comets!



Come out and show your Hicksville spirit at Homecoming on October 14th!

Join your fellow HCT colleagues at Homecoming and assist at the HCT booth.

Come for the entire time, or pick a half hour shift between the hours of 10 A.M. and 1 P.M.

Email or call (516 937-1288) the HCT office to sign up.

It's Not Too Late to Volunteer



If you are interested in volunteering for any of the following Building Level, District or HCT Committees please complete the ***Call for Volunteer form**, save it and email it to the HCT at **hicksville_teachers@verizon.net**.

****Download form before completing.
Data may not be saved if you complete it in your browser window.***

District-wide Professional Development Committee - Meets three times per year to discuss and develop staff development.

Building Level Site Based - Monthly meetings. Team includes principal, teacher(s), parents and students. Teacher member(s) represent the HCT and must meet regularly with HCT building reps and faculty to solicit input

to bring to the team. Only Tenured Teachers.

District Wide Site Based - Meets 4 to 5 times annually with District team including Central Office Administrators, Building Administration, teacher(s) and parents. Members represent the HCT and must communicate with HCT executive officers regarding issues at district level.

Building Health & Safety Committee - For building(s) that do not include this as part of Site Based team. Monthly meetings with principal and teacher(s) to discuss issues of concern. Teacher member(s) represent the HCT and must communicate regularly with HCT building reps and faculty to solicit input to bring to the team.

Political Action/VOTE-COPE Committee - Provide support to membership, acquainting them with opportunities to strengthen our position as stake holders in the political process and to assist with the annual VOTE-COPE drive.

Scholarship Committee - To review HCT scholarship criteria and candidates. Selects recipients for submission to the HCT.

HCT Benefits

Excess Major Medical & Contributory Life Insurance



HCT Optional Medical & Life Insurance Coverage

New HCT Members

If you are planning on enrolling in the Excess Major Medical or Contributory Life Insurance, please submit your forms to your building representative or the HCT office by **Friday, September 15th, 2017**.

Current HCT Members

If you wish to enroll in Excess Major Medical coverage must do so during the Open Enrollment Period for coverage beginning January 1, 2018. Additional information will be announced toward the end of the calendar year. If you would like to obtain Contributory Life Insurance coverage, you must complete an "evidence of insurability application to be forwarded to the carrier for review.

Please [contact](#) the HCT office for additional information.

Condolences



Our deepest condolences to **Diane Lomma (Lee Avenue)** on the passing of her father.

A Special Invitation

Special Invitation for HCT Members



A "Closed Door" Sale for Invited Guests

**Saturday, September 30th, 2017
8 AM to 3:30 PM**

**80 Ruland Road
Melville, NY 11747**

Email the [HCT office](#) for tickets.

STAY CONNECTED:



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

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