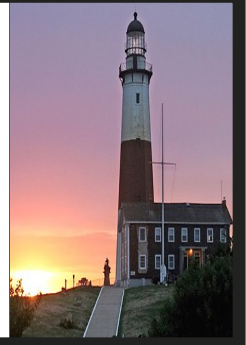
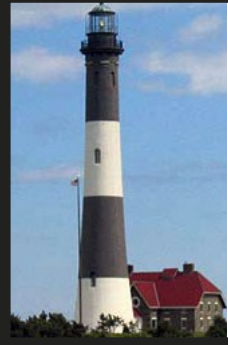


*From the Lighthouse in the West to the Lighthouse in the East*

# THE BEACON

**BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk**  
Union Local 3037



**President's Report**

**Thelma Shaw**

**Volume 24 Issue 5**

**June 2011**

## *Difficult Times -Difficult Decisions*

**Inside this issue:**

I know how valuable and limited time is for our members. However, I can not begin to tell you how frustrating it is for me, and how it saddens and angers me, that so many of our members fail to take the time to use two very valuable resources.

We have an award winning website and a newsletter that wins journalism awards each year. Yet we have a membership that doesn't take advantage of these tools and continues to not know their rights and responsibilities as BEES members. You can help support your local and be part of it just by reading our BEACON and visiting our website. This is your best opportunity to know the facts and have correct information. This knowledge empowers you and your co-workers.

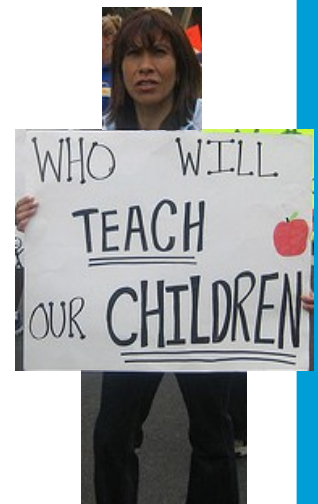
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In my article last June I spoke about how the 2011–2012 school year was going to hit us hard. I had hoped that when I wrote that last June, I would be proven wrong and things would not be as bad as predicted. Unfortunately, my hopes were not realized. In almost 36 years of union involvement, it is impossible for me to recall such difficult times that have also necessitated extremely difficult decisions.

I consider myself a strong and informed leader. However, I have begun to question my own ability to endure more meetings where I sit across the table from a dedicated staff members and tell them that they will not have a job in September.

**In each of these members I see the future of ESB.**



These members have the drive, the vision and the passion to make our programs the best of the best, and yet they are being excessed. This is not because they are not phenomenal and dedicated employees. It is because the state of our public schools, economic realities and enrollment issues dictate these actions. In fairness to all, excessed members are least senior on their respective lists. I understand the challenges they face when trying to find employment in their certification areas in today's job market. With all of our component districts laying off staff, the task is even harder. We all need to be understanding and compassionate toward these members as they encounter uncertain futures.

In order to clarify facts for our excessed staff covered in the *Blue Contract* and to educate our members, here are the FACTS:

- 1) The blue contract is silent when it comes to the summer rate of pay for our members who are being excessed this year. Each year the agency has made the decision to follow the contractual rate of pay as per our contract instead of the non-BOCES employee rate. It is an incredible gesture of good will and I want to thank Dr. Julie Lutz for her involvement in this decision. This is a year to year decision. It does not set a precedent, but it once again is a prime example of the collaboration that continues to exist between labor and management.
- 2) Any of our excessed teachers recalled back to a regular substitute position gets full salary, benefits and sick/personal time prorated to their recall date. These days are added to whatever was in "their" bank and stay in that bank until they are either recalled or the seven year time frame on PEL (preferred eligibility list) is exhausted. In addition, this time as a regular substitute counts as "time" toward the member's total service to the agency. This may change the order in which he/she is recalled back from PEL. Example: A teacher recalled to start the school year in September gets a full year of credit, as opposed to the teacher recalled in November. This time may change their actual PEL recall number. Recall from PEL counts all time served in a certificated position within the agency.
- 3) This teacher is still technically excessed, so he/she will not get re-excessed in June. The appointment letter states that a position as a regular sub was accepted and it ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. If the excessed teacher never used any of his/her 60 sick/personal days for excessing pay in the year following their original excessing, he/she still has that option the next September as long as he/she doesn't get another regular sub appointment or find another TEACHING job outside of ESB.
- 4) If the teacher used all of his/her 60 days of excessing pay prior to being recalled back to a regular sub position, he/she can not apply for another "round" of excessing pay. If the teacher only used a portion of the 60 days prior to being recalled back, he/she can receive the remaining portion if he/she does not gain employment. If the member ended the year in June that they were excessed with no days left in their sick accumulation, they can not sell back the days they were given in the regular sub appointment position.

5) When a member is excessed in June and has completed 15 credits of course work for the purpose of Professional Advancement, he/she will receive his/her salary advancement upon returning to a position as an employee. This will occur if the member followed the requirements as stated on the Professional Advancement Request Form, completed the course work prior to being excessed in June and submitted all the appropriate paperwork to Human Resources.

6) A member is eligible to use their allotment of sick days up to the 60 day total for excessing pay as long as they do not get a job teaching full time in September. Therefore, they may substitute as a teacher at a daily rate, work in any other capacity besides teaching and still be eligible to use their days. If a full time teaching position is accepted, no matter what the salary of that job, excessing pay is not applicable.

7) Members who are excessed and covered in the *Yellow Contract* will also benefit from the summer pay agreement. They will be paid their contractual rate of pay as opposed to the non-BOCES employee rate. Remember, the contract is silent on this and it again shows the working relationship that exists between labor and management.

### **Information at your Fingertips**

Please visit our website during the summer months. As soon as pertinent union news is available, it is posted on our website. Last summer for example, our members were able to get accurate information as the process unfolded about the 55/25 proceedings. We have added a new feature this year with the BEES listserv. When you join the BEES listserv from a link on the website you will have the latest union news e-mailed to you directly.

**We are please to announce that for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year, our website, BEESBEACON.org has won 1<sup>st</sup> place at the state level for best website.**

This knowledge alone should make every member want to visit the site and at least take a peek to see what makes it the BEST of the BEST.

### **Staff Development Requirements**

In the blue contract there is a CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT for 15 hours of STAFF DEVELOPMENT. This is mandatory and contractually your responsibility. Many of our blue contract members are deficient in meeting this requirement. This means that they are insubordinate. They will be required to make up the missed hours and add them to next year's 15 required hours. The one credit or the \$325.00 stipend is only awarded if the 15 hours are completed in the school year in which they are originally required. Just as you expect the agency to follow our contract language, it is your responsibility to follow it also.

## **ESBOCES Winners**

### **Lighthouse Awards**

The ESBOCES Lighthouse award was established in 2010 to recognize ESB staff in the following areas: community service, teacher, para educator and administrator. The ESB Board members created the award and choose the recipients yearly.

This year's winners are **Keith Anderson-administrator, Sarah Benjamin-teacher, Thelma Shaw-para educator and for community service-Isila Blank. Congratulations!**

Your dedication, leadership and all around commitment to this agency is apparent.

### **Teacher Benevolent Fund Scholarships**

Congratulations to the BEES members who are the parents of students winning scholarships. Their children were chosen by the Long Island Teachers Benevolent Fund to each receive a \$300 check toward their education. This year there were 571 applications for the scholarship and the BEES had 8 recipients. They are **James Leonard, Brandon Barsky, Brianna Archard, Kyle Archard, Emily Comando, Claire Leaden, Daniel Scholen, and Eric Gershon.**

Good luck in college and "the check's in the mail."

Since this is our last BEACON until next school year, I'd like to thank the people who make my life easier. Thanks to the Executive Board and our Building Representatives. Your commitment to our members and our local is evident in all that you do. Thank you Linda Cardone, our office secretary and my fellow job coach. You make sure that I don't miss a beat and, of course, the chocolate you supply me helps tremendously. To all of my "WAC" co-workers and all of the administrative professionals, custodial/maintenance staff and the administrators - you all play a part in the success of the BEES local.

I have a very special thank you and goodbye to my building principal, Cynthia Croke. Cynthia, thank you for being "you". I have had a great time working with you these past 8 years. Congratulations on your retirement and enjoy!

I hope that you got out to vote for your school budget on May 17th. The overwhelming success rate of budgets being passed shows the commitment to support what kids need. Districts proposals averaged a mere spending increase of 0.84 percent. This is in spite of out of control fuel costs and the spiraling increases in health insurance and pension contributions.

Have a great summer and rejuvenate for September. I will be working summer school and can be reached by phone (286-6908) or by email at [Beeshivepres@aol.com](mailto:Beeshivepres@aol.com).

**School starts in the fall on Tuesday, September 6** and from past experience I know how quickly summer goes before we are back together at our opening day meeting in Patchogue. Remember, if you choose not to attend our BEES meeting you must report to your work site at the time your building opens. Have a safe summer and enjoy life, it waits for no one.

In Solidarity, Thelma



**Executive Vice President**

**Pat Copertino**

## ***Outraged Over Rules for Evaluating Teacher Effectiveness***

In the spring 2010 Beacon, "Defining Excellence" was the focus as it related to the new Teacher and Principal Evaluation legislation. The words passionately spoke to the fact that those participants *IN THE PROFESSION* should be doing the work of identifying what that excellence looks like and how that can be measured. After all, who best to understand the complexities and cognitive work of teaching and learning? **Locally** we have done an outstanding job of keeping the focus of evaluation where it should be-on improving instruction collaboratively. Well folks, it is a year later and I ask you to share my **outrage** of where we have landed **in our state** by no fault of our own, our union affiliates or the agency for which we work.

After following the year long work of the 63 member Regents Task Force composed of educators, leaders of education and those interested in improving student learning, I felt some concern as to how their recommendations would be worked out. Upon deciphering SED's DRAFT regulations, the concern grew to uneasiness as phrases along the way changed from "locally developed" to "locally selected".

The bombshell hit when Governor Andrew Cuomo's [May 13, 2011 letter to the Chancellor of the Board of Regents](#) regarding Performance Evaluations for Teachers made 4 major objections to the draft and promoted "strings attached persuasion". Cuomo stated, "My Administration will aggressively seek to incentivize school districts to implement the evaluation system expeditiously.

**Therefore only those districts that actually perform, and implement the teacher and principal evaluation system, would be eligible for the Executive's School Performance Incentive Program**-a \$500 million program-that included in the Executive Budget. School districts would potentially lose millions of dollars on state awards for failure to implement the system **quickly**. Sounds like "Race to the Top" rules for funding. You must do what I want to get tax payer dollars for public education.

Cuomo, who is not trained in the field of education or assessment, believes the student test scores are the only *objective* part of the proposed evaluation system and should therefore have greater weight. With his system no educator can have an "*effective*" rating unless both the rubric portion and the student growth portion are in the *effective* range. The big flaw here is that the current state assessment system does not measure annual student growth. Let us borrow the saying from the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards](#), **"Much of what is tested does not count, but much of what counts cannot be tested"**.

The true outrage came 3 days later when the NY State Board of Regents, a group who should be highly versed in the profession of teaching and learning, caved to the Governor's misguided demands and adopted the new rules for evaluating teachers and principal.

Please join me to thank Regents Tilles, Cashin and Rosa for their "no" votes and shared concern over this slam to our education system. Roger Tillis immediately rebutted this decision in an excellent article found in the Washington Post and [Newsday](#).

We, NYSUT, a Union of Professional expected Chancellor Tisch and the State Education Department to have demonstrated the respect and integrity to create regulations that honor effective teacher and principal evaluation. As it stands now experts in the field would declare this package "INEFFECTIVE" at insuring improved student learning and teacher success.



**First Vice President**

**Ray Stenberg**

## ***Never Going to Give Up, Not Going to Forget!***

I want to begin by thanking my fellow union brothers and sisters who responded to the call for political action. Some of you attended a protest at Sachem High School while others formed carpools and headed into Nassau County for a rally at Hofstra University. Weeks later, BEES members boarded the LIRR for a trip into NY City where they participated in an unprecedented show of unity in Times Square.

To further show our anger towards those who are supporting the continuous attacks on educators, BEES members picketed in front of the office of New York State Senator Owen Johnson. He wants to do away with seniority. Can you imagine the bloodbath that would occur if that idea ever became a reality? In addition, many of you exercised your right to vote and you casted votes in your local school budget elections. Once again, I thank you and I strongly urge others to get involved.

I just returned from Albany where I participated in a candlelight vigil in downtown Albany to mourn the loss of over 13,000 positions throughout the state of New York. This includes over a thousand positions on Long Island. Despite some hard won restorations from the Legislature, restored funding will not change the lasting impacts of cuts on local governments, school districts, public colleges, students, senior citizens and the most vulnerable populations across the state.

For many New Yorkers, the 2011-2012 budget is a very painful and regressive budget that will cause deep societal consequences. Never before have we seen such a draconian cut to education.

### **The budget imposed the largest cut (1.3 Billion) to school aid in the history of New York State.**

When political meddling supersedes educational acumen, we will not be silent. We will actively support those who support education, and will use the strength of our ranks to create change when the support is not there.

## **We will not forget, We are NEVER GOING TO GIVE UP!**

We will continue to fight for the extension of the "millionaires tax" which is set to expire at the end of this year. While public education sustained deep and devastating budget cuts, and thousands of teachers, SRP's, and other public employees are losing their jobs, the wealthiest three percent of New Yorkers continue to enjoy a multi-billion dollar tax cut. This is the wrong time for Albany to be cutting taxes for New York's wealthiest residents. These devastating cuts could be prevented if the state would close corporate loopholes and extend the so-called "millionaires tax".

The effects of the attacks on public education are being strongly felt here on Long Island.

**Districts are making serious cuts and as a result, they are sending us less students.** This, along with rising health care and pension costs, is having a serious negative impact on us. We are losing strong and talented people from Eastern Suffolk BOCES and we are saddened to hear that they will suffer financial distress as a direct result of being excessed. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to our colleagues who will not be employed.

To those members of the BEES who are retiring, I wish you a happy and healthy retirement. In a way, I am a little envious of those who are retiring because you will be free from all of the bureaucratic BS that the federal and state governments continuously imposes on us. For everybody else, I wish you a great summer. Before you know it, It will be Labor Day and the 2011-12 school year will be starting.



*It Pays to Learn*

I would like to review the educational incentives provided for us in the yellow contract. There are two categories of incentives:

1. Undergraduate Credits – a member will be eligible for a **\$300 stipend added to their yearly salary** for the completion of each 6 credits of eligible course work to a maximum total of 60 credits. Eligible course work is defined as undergraduate courses in a degree bearing program functionally related to your position in BOCES. All course work must be preapproved by the Divisional Director. There are timelines and filing deadlines for this incentive so please see page 17 of the yellow contract or your building representative.
2. In-Service Credits - Each year, Para Educators/Sign Language Interpreters will have the opportunity to receive an educational incentive of \$300 *for* the completion of 3 in-service credits. An in-service credit is granted for completing 15 hours. To achieve the 3 in-service credits, (45 hours) agency approved workshops and coursework may be taken in individual blocks of 1 hour or more.

**If these workshops/coursework are used for certification requirements, they cannot also be used for the educational incentive.**

Payment of more than 3 credits in any fiscal year may be approved by the Divisional Director up to 9 credits. Courses must have the prior approval of the Divisional Director.

If you take a SDM approved workshop or a Para Mentor workshop prior approval is not needed.  
*The \$300 shall be a one time payment and is not added to your yearly salary.*

To be eligible for this incentive payment you must file the appropriate request within one month of completion of the third in-service credit. You may find additional information regarding this incentive on page 16 of the yellow contract. Knowing your contract enables you to take advantage of these incentives. Hopefully more of you will benefit from them in the future.

As this is the last Beacon issue of the school year I would like to wish everyone a wonderful summer. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will enjoy a well deserved summer break.

Thank you for all your support, I truly appreciate it.



Area V.P. for Itinerants

Rachele Alwais

## *Developing Professionally*

I refuse to bring you any more bad news.

**So how about some good news not just for itinerants, but for all teachers?**

The good news is THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND has funding available for us to:

- \*retain excess teachers
- \*go to professional conferences
- \*conduct workshops
- \*fund mini grants

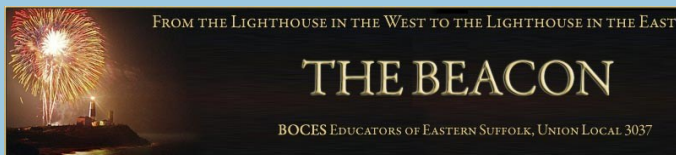
You should be getting periodic notifications about available funds from the Department of Educational Support Services. Attached with this notification are funding regulations, directions on how to file for funds, and a quarterly timetable of application deadlines.

This year Marilyn H. Adsitt has been responsible for running Educational Support Services. She now will provide oversight to ESS along with the rest of the Agency as she takes over as the Superintendent of ESBOCES. Congratulations to Marilyn, we wish her all the best in her new position.

Beside the periodic e-mails about the fund, you can access the application and procedures via the [BOCES Intranet](#), by clicking on "**edocs**" and then by clicking on "**forms**". If you haven't used the ESBOCES intranet, ask a Curriculum or a Lead Teacher to help you set up access to this resource. The good news is that BOCES recognizes the impact of getting funding directly to teachers to develop and learn about things vital to improving the "educational expertise" BE SURE TO USE IT. Enjoy your summer.

### Green Link Directly from THE BEACON

The Online version of the BEACON has links embedded in the document. You can click on these links in the online version of the BEACON and go directly to a website. Look for Blue text in the document for active links. You will be unsuccessful if you try clicking on links in the printed paper version of the BEACON. You must try going online and using the electronic version.



[Employee E-mail](#)  
**Access your e-mail**

[Employee Portal](#)  
**Access your files and applications**

# Retiree Roll Call

Irene Bach BLC@Hauppauge

Afaf Basaly BLC

Dorothy Berezny WTAC

Helene Berger BAC

Sue Boschetti WHB

Daniel Brenner BTC

Eileen Brenner MTC

Linda Burke IAC

Margaret Cannizzaro SAC

Arlene Coleman IAC

Jean Cosentino WHB

Ursula Dascoli JAC

Laura DeMatteo JAC

Stephanie Deppe WHB

Janet DiGangi PLC

Sally Dietrich BAC

Dolores DiStefano SAC

Debra Dolber WHB

Maria Dombroski JAC

Philip Epstein MTC

Kathy Ercolino MLC

Patricia Foley WHB

Margaret Frankman PLC

JoAnn Frascogna WHB

Karen Freudendorf WHB

Eileen Furio WTAC

Elizabeth Gallaer WHB

Susan Geer-DiAngelo WHB

Marie Geyer PLC

Veneta Golde ITIN.

Carol Hannon MLC

Nancy Hartman MLC

Jacqueline Hayn BLC

Catherine Hocoluk MLC

Dolores Horton SAC

Lucille Hults BLC@SAM

Meryl Hutter SAA

Ann Katsaros BAC

Mark Klepper MC

Carol Ann Knecht WHB

Wayne Kubacki BTC

Maureen Leonard, WHB  
Felicia McGrath BLC  
John Menekou, BLC  
Linda Metty PLC  
Eileen Mischo, WHB  
Cheryl Lanzo SAC  
Mary Lou Lawrence PLC  
Roberta Leonard PLC@Ridge  
Darlene Maler PLC@Longwood  
Donald Miellie BTC  
Kathleen Marron JAC  
Mello-Teta, Linda WHB  
Carol Nesta BLC  
Renata Nisenbaum PLC  
Carl Northgard ICC  
Cynthia Quigley SAC  
Florence Olson BLC  
Cynthia Pautz WHB  
Lynn Perry JAC  
James Petrungaro JAC  
Karen Ramos BLC

Carmela Rapisardi ICC  
Robert Reilly IAC  
Norma Reyes PLC  
Miriam Rosado BLC  
Virginia Rosenberg MLC  
Linda Sanginario SAC  
Lillian Scalogna BLC@SAM  
Jeanne Sica WHB  
Frances Schaefer JAC  
Randi Spelyng MLC  
Bette Ann Stark ICC  
Diane Stewart WHB  
Julie Stinson PLC  
Lucia Tamargo  
Helen Tremblay BLC  
James Van Gorden WTAC  
Patricia Vickers MLC  
Cheryl Woods WHB@Riverhead  
David Winter WHB  
Michael Yankowski ICC

Rob Thank-You





**Area V.P. Special Education**

**Jim Beck**

## ***Giving Gratitude***

Greetings my union brothers and sisters! By the time you read this the school year will be coming to a close and many of you will be looking forward to a chance to recharge your batteries and decompress. For others, summer school awaits and new challenges present themselves. My message this issue is very simple. It is one of gratitude.

For me, this has been a year of great growth, both professionally and within our union. Much of my gratitude goes toward Thelma Shaw for presenting me with the opportunities to grow and for taking the time to share much of her invaluable experience and insight.

I am also grateful for being able to work with a great Executive Board. Every meeting is a learning experience and a chance to work with some very smart, dedicated and committed individuals.

Most of all I am grateful to you, our members, for the many kind words about my articles or encouraging emails, or simply kind comments of one kind or another. The opportunity to serve in my small way has given me great satisfaction.  
Thank you.

## **Retiree Report**

**Mary L. Armbruster**

### ***A Torch is Passed***

I will be retiring as Retiree Chapter President as of July 1, 2011. I have enjoyed founding the Chapter and watching it grow. Our members are wonderful, and it has been most gratifying working with you. My elected replacement is Mary Harris. I am sure that she is known by most of you. Mary is a fine lady and extremely talented.

A huge thank you to the BEES executive board. Everyone has been so cooperative and supportive. I served under four presidents: Artie Masucci, Larry Blank, Jim Arden and Thelma Shaw. Leaving a position after serving twenty-two years is bittersweet. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as President.

I wish the class of 2011 the joys of retirement, and invite the new retirees to the chapter. The Honorarium will be held Thursday, June 16, 2011. Wishing all a restful and healthy summer. I shall look forward to seeing you at the Chapter meetings.

*Editors Note - Mary served 22 years AFTER retiring as an active member and educator. She has been a living resource for union knowledge and has provided the executive board a rich historical legacy. Mary declined to have her picture added to her articles which is typical of the humility found in her "quiet competence."*



## *Sowing Seeds on Fertile Ground*

We face some very tough times ahead but I would rather focus on what we have done to improve our programs. This summer 31 programs are being offered in the Summer Career Exploration program. We are now seeing these students turn up in our programs. I would like to give you a personal example of how we can reap from the seeds we sow. I currently have a student in my class that attended the summer career program in Riverhead for automotive, followed by the carpentry summer program at the Bellport campus. I have submitted the paperwork to hire this student as an intern to work with me this summer in the Carpentry program.

If you haven't experienced the Summer Career Exploration program yet step up and give it a try next year. In my opinion this is the best public relations money ESBOCES has ever spent.

A parent recently told me that the math credit offered for taking Carpentry helped them make the decision to enroll in my class. Another student was able to continue attending my program because of the math credit that is embedded into the Carpentry curriculum. It took a lot of work updating the curriculum, identifying the content needed to get the program accredited and collecting all the artifacts. There is more work to come because soon the program will need to be recertified. If all this work allows students to continue to attend our programs it's worth it. We need to continue to be innovative to make our programs unique.

As the end of the school year approaches we all are concerned about the future. Please represent ESBOCES in a positive light and continue to be as professional as always.



**REAP  
WHAT YOU  
SOW**



## *Medicaid Update*

According to the NYS School Social Workers Association, Spring 2011 Newsletter, the following is an update on Medicaid. All School districts are now eligible for Medicaid reimbursement for counseling services provided to students eligible for Medicaid where the following conditions exist:

A written order by an authorized person (CSE chairperson, licensed professional outside the school district, a member of the CSE, the school social worker, a psychologist, or a psychiatrist.).

“Psychological Counseling” is the exact wording which must designate the service in the Related Service area of the students IEP.

The service must be provided by an LCSW, or Licensed and registered psychologist or psychiatrist.

Brief session notes must be done in a timely manner, and must indicate progress toward a goal. NO Confidential information need to be shared on these notes. Individual or group session (groups must be 2-5 students), length of session, date and exact times. CPT codes, name, title, and credential of person providing the service must be indicated.

Districts around the state are in all degrees of readiness to access Medicaid counseling reimbursement. Some misinformation and meeting conditions has complicated the process. Of note, a change from the past, as long as the number of sessions is consistent with that written on the IEP, each session is billable, there is no monthly minimum.

If there are any questions regarding Medicaid, please contact: [medined@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:medined@mail.nysed.gov).

I know that this has been a very stressful year with the new changes to our assignments, new computers, and new paperwork. I hope that all LMSW's work hard this summer to gain the credentials for their LCSW. I hope that you all have a restful summer and see you in September.

Bach, Irene BLC@HAUPPAUGE  
Basaly, Afaf BLC  
Boschetti, Sue WHB  
Coleman, Arlene IAC  
Cosentino, Jean WHB  
DiGangi, Janet PLC  
Dombroski, Maria JAC  
Ercolino, Kathy MLC  
Frascogna, JoAnn WHB  
Furio, Eileen WTAC  
Geer-DiAngelo, Susan WHB  
Geyer, Marie PLC  
Hartman, Nancy MLC  
Hayn, Jacqueline BLC  
Horton, Dolores SAC  
Hults, Lucille BLC@SAM  
Knecht, Carol Ann WHB  
Leonard, Maureen WHB  
McGrath, Felicia BLC  
Metty, Linda PLC  
Mischo, Eileen WHB  
Nesta, Carol BLC  
Olson, Florence BLC  
Rapisardi, Carmela ICC  
Reyes, Norma PLC  
Rosado, Miriam BLC  
Sanginario, Linda SAC  
Scalogna, Lillian BLC@SAM  
Stinson, Julie PLC  
Tremblay, Helen BLC  
Vickers, Patricia MLC  
Woods, Cheryl WHB@RIVERHEAD  
Menekou, John BLC



**Benefits Officer**

**Bob Love**

## ***It Benefits You to Know***

Another year is close to an end and soon we will be wishing our retirees a fond far well. If you are not lucky enough to be one of those retirees then I have some suggested reading for the summer.

You should start with the [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#), your contract. Then move on to either the [Active Member's Handbook](#) (for TRS members) or the Employees Retirement System Plan Booklet (for ERS members). Finally, well not really but I'll stop my list here; you should read [What every NYSUT member should know](#). That way you'll have plenty of time to read through the updated Staff Manual and Employee Handbook when you return in September. If you are not looking out for your own welfare then who is?

### **No more 90-day prescription refills for EEHP members**

That is if you have been getting them refilled at the local pharmacy. You can read the whole detailed explanation on the EEHP website, but in a nut shell here is the story. The EEHP plan document has always said that 90-day prescriptions must be filled by mail order. CVS/Caremark sort of let this slip. ProAct, the new prescription company will be following the plan document beginning July 1, 2011. You must use mail order if you want 90-day refills, your local pharmacy will only be allowed to dispense 30-day refills.

There is also an explanation of why some of the co-pays changed on the website. I recommend that every EEHP member visit the EEHP website and read the [East End Health Plan News & Notes](#). If you still have questions or concerns you can call the ProAct Help Desk at 1-866-287-9885.

### **NYSTRS Pension & Retirement Education Program (PREP)**

PREP is designed to help members of any age carefully plan for their financial future and retirement. Summer sessions are being held at the Island Marriot – August 10, Melville Marriot – August 24, Courtyard (in Ronkonkoma) – July 13, and the LI Marriot – August 11. For more information visit the retirement system website. You must make reservation for this free seminar – call 1-800-348-7298.

### **Numbers to keep handy over the summer**

[BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk](#) 475-4704

BOCES Human Resources 289-2200

[NSY Teacher's Retirement System](#) - 1-800-348-7298

[NYS Employee's Retirement System](#) - 1-866-805-0990

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Retirement Honorarium.

Remember, as in everything that is important – ***KEEP COPIES OF EVERYTHING***

I can be reached at Milliken Technical Center 244-5858 or at [beesvpcb@optonline.net](mailto:beesvpcb@optonline.net).

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