

The BEES Beacon

BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk



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

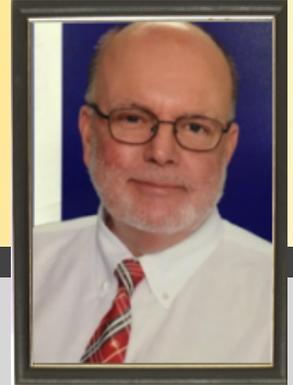


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Union Strong

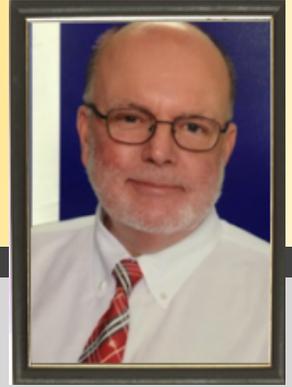


Hello my sisters and brothers. I hope this last article of the school year finds you well. Things seem to be moving fast as we move toward the end of the school year and back to a post Covid sense of normalcy. Federal stimulus money has begun to flow into school districts in New York State greatly helping to ease the pain caused by the epidemic. Mask mandates outside of school have been partially lifted as places of business return to full capacity. New York City is reopening and the country seems to be waking from it's long Covid sleep. This is wonderful news for us all. So many of us have lost loved ones, family and friends as well as members of the BEES family.

Through this all we have moved ahead and continued to provide the best educational experiences for the children we work with. What a great job you all have done and done well. My friends, it is with mixed emotions that I tell you that this is my last Beacon article as your union president. I am retiring on June 26, the last day of school. As I reflect on my 33-year career there is much to be proud of. Kids whose lives I touched, a legacy of many who I have worked with going on to become teachers, friends passing, marriages and births... so much life. And through it all we have stood tall.

**OUR UNION IS
STRONG
BECAUSE OUR MEMBERS ARE
STRONG**

Union Strong



There is a quote from Thomas Babington Macaulay that has always stuck with me from when I first heard it in my Freshman Roman Civilization class at Saint Bonaventure University.

“Then out spake brave Horatius,
The Captain of the Gate:
To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late.
And how can man die better
Than facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers,
And the temples of his gods”

We have been the Captains of the gate and have fought all those good battles to keep you safe. I leave with our union strong and united. Asha Mazza-Shaw will be taking my place for the next year and general elections will take place next June as scheduled. She will do a fine job, helped by the finest board I have ever worked with along with our excellent building reps. As I leave, our contracts are rich with benefits and solid. Throughout this pandemic we have worked very hard to make sure we protected our members rights. While many districts stopped paying their paras' and they lost what little health care they had, we made sure you never missed a paycheck and your health benefits continued. I am very proud of us. I believe that we make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give. I am proud to have made a life for myself here with you all. Thank you all for your help, understanding and love. For the final time I close with “unity and strength”.

Jim Beck

Executive Vice President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

In Gratitude



Greetings BEES members! The air has gotten warmer; the flowers are blooming; the birds are singing and the bees are buzzing. Spring is a welcome season this year, and it's hard to imagine all we have been through that brought us to this point. The past thirteen months have been full of trials and tribulations. Some of our BEES family have experienced losses that will leave their lives forever changed. My deepest sympathies to those of you who have lost someone during this pandemic. Undoubtedly, this time in our collective existence will leave its mark on us all; thank goodness it seems as though the light is at the end of the tunnel. If you find that you need an extra shoulder to lean on as we come to terms with the events of the past year, remember that EAP and ERF are helpful resources available to all employees of the agency. You can find their information on the BOCES website at www.esboces.org.

Our BEES have been busy buzzing as well. This year showed just how resilient, innovative and tenacious we all are. Throughout the ever-changing protocols, school closures, quarantines, vaccine rollouts, virtual teaching, we kept all the students on track and feeling as safe and as normal as possible. Every position within this agency changed over night, and everyone adjusted and played their part in keeping things moving as smoothly as they could have. You are an incredible group of educators. Thank you for all of your dedication and hard work.

In the world of educational news, there is legislation that is awaiting final approval from the governor regarding APPR scores. To prevent having to wait for this pending approval, your union leaders have met with the agency and agreed that there will be no APPR composite scores used this year. Any members who are seeking tenure will be given credit for the year. Moreover, please remember that we do have contractual language in place regarding evaluations. It is important to remain familiar with the language in your contract so you know your bargaining rights. If you feel you have been evaluated unfairly, please reach out to your building representative.

With federal funding now supporting our contingent districts and school budgets passing, the agency is back in hiring mode. Packets are also coming into the programs again, which is good for jobs and job security. If you are interested in your seniority number, please send an email to your area vice president who can give you that information. Significantly, you can only request your number, and no one else can get your number for you.

Executive Vice President - Asha Mazza-Shaw

In Gratitude



While we can hope for some sense of normalcy returning during the course of the next school year, our BEES Executive Board is going to undergo some changes. After several years of dedication and service, two prominent Executive Board members will be retiring at the end of this school year: President, Jim Beck and First Vice President, Ray Stenberg. Each of them are retiring with one year left on their terms. According to the Constitution of the BEES, in an event such as this, their positions have been filled by other members of the Executive Board who were confirmed by the Representative Council. Please refer to page 22 for the 2021 - 2022 Executive Board members.

Both Jim and Ray have given many years of service to the BEES union. Ray has been a Vote Cope advocate, worked with the agency on many levels and given our members insight on the benefits of union membership during his tenure as First Vice President. Jim has seen many members through difficult times, guided new members through their first years into tenure, and has worked diligently with the agency to resolve many issues before the membership even heard about them. On a personal note, I'd like to thank both Jim and Ray for their leadership and guidance throughout the years. Both of these union leaders will be missed and leave big shoes to fill. However, I have no doubt that the Executive Board in place for next year is up for the job. With the continued support of our membership, and from our excellent building representatives, we will continue to evolve, grow and provide you with the strong union representation to which you are accustomed.

I would like to wish you all a restful, enjoyable summer. I would encourage you to continue to be smart and safe about your activities as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 whirlwind that has engulfed so much of our lives these past 13 months. I hope this summer brings renewal, relaxation, joy, laughter and fun to all of you: it is certainly well-deserved. To all of our retirees -- congratulations! Enjoy all the time you have now to explore and dedicate to doing the things you want to do! I look forward to seeing you next year at our Retiree Honorarium. Thank you all for everything you do, and thank you for your membership to the BEES union. Together we are union strong!

Asha

**UNION
STRONG**

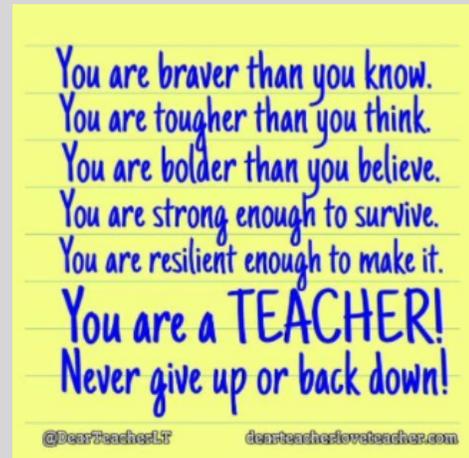
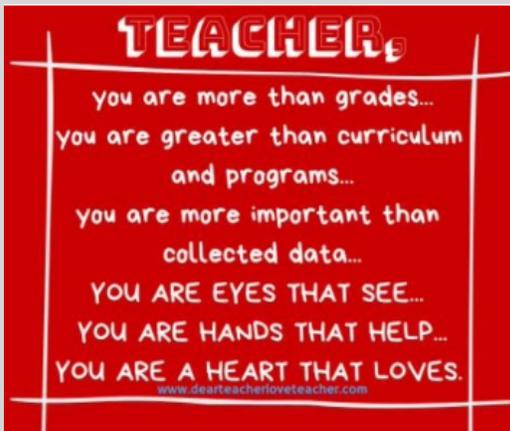
Executive Vice President - Al Rios



Better Together

I wish you all a sincere and humble greeting!

As I sit here typing my final thoughts for this final issue of The BEES Beacon for the 2020-2021 school year I hope each and every one of you and your families are safe, happy and healthy. I also want to recognize that in 1953, Eleanor Roosevelt persuaded the 81st Congress to proclaim National Teachers' Day. Later in 1985 the National PTA established National Teacher Appreciation Week as the first full week of May. As such, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to Teachers and Educators of the BEES for your dedication, hard work and achievements this school year. Your care, kindness and resilience has not gone unnoticed and every educator deserves to be recognized and appreciated. A big thanks to you all. "



In past years it was during this time that I would look back and say to myself, "Where has the year gone?"

I would feel like it was just September and I was setting up my classroom. In previous years I felt like the year flew by and before I knew it I would be in the last few weeks of school packing up my classroom, celebrating the retirement of my colleagues and attending graduation parties. In the past at this time I would be discussing summer plans, preparing for travel, and readying myself for a chance to relax and recharge for the subsequent school year.

This school year was different. It's no exaggeration to say that Covid-19 has been a seismic event for education. We all know that this school year did not go as we all planned and the end of this school year feels very different from years past, but I am so proud of how we persevered. This year we saw teachers, counselors, assistants, aides and school personnel and staff go out of their way to make this the best year they possibly could under the most challenging situation.

We have all endured a year of an entirely new education landscape. One marked by uncertainty, loss, grief, frustration, new responsibilities and seemingly endless hours of preparation and remote teaching. But it was also a year of renewed bonds, compassion, unity and strength as we all pulled together to comfort, support and assist one another through our countless personal as well as professional challenges.

Executive Vice President - Al Rios

Better Together



We helped each other get through this difficult year and we continued the goal to change the lives of our students for the better, and encourage them to aim for success. Some of us have gone to extraordinary lengths to engage students who might be struggling, not just with school, but in their personal lives as well. Many students have seen their parents lose work due to the pandemic, or seen family members become sick or die from the coronavirus. Other students were depressed or overly anxious, as they've been apart from their friends for so long. As educators we have risen to the occasion and made every effort to put the needs of our students first and foremost, which furthers the belief that our BEES members of all grade levels, content areas, and in all sectors of education are capable of incredible things.

We have all played a critical role in educating and shaping the children we work with and we should all be proud of these accomplishments. Thank you to all of our BEES members out there for showing how powerful you are, as individuals and as professionals. I look forward to your continued greatness next fall.

My wish for all of you at the close of this school year and the beginning of the summer months, is that each and every one of you, enjoy the time you will have with your family and loved ones as well as take the measures you need to rest, recover and look after yourselves before the 2021-2022 school year begins

To my retiring colleagues, I am so jealous! Thank you for sharing your knowledge, guidance and encouragement. You may be retiring, but your teachings will forever be engraved in our student's lives. I wish you all many happy and healthy retirement years ahead. You have earned it.

Finally, I would like to thank all our BEES members for sticking with the Union during this most difficult and trying school year. I would also like to thank you for allowing me to serve you as one of your Executive Vice Presidents. It has been quite a year of trials and tribulations but we made it through thanks to your dedication. It has been a privilege and honor and I look forward to working hard for you all next year.

Have a happy, healthy, restful and exciting summer vacation.

All my best

Al Rios

Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?



Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

Saving you money: MB Discounts & Deals

With the **Member Benefits Discounts & Deals** program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- **Purchasing Power, Buyer's Edge Inc., Office Depot/OfficeMax, Bose, Powell's Books** -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.



Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include **auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision**, and even **pet insurance**. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.

Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the Member Benefits **Financial Learning Center** for assistance; while you're there, check out our **Legal Service Plan** and **Financial Counseling Program**.

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:



To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org, call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR code above.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

First Vice President - Ray Stenberg



Things Are Looking Good

Well, here we are at the end of another school year and what a year it was. We somehow managed to get through the 2020-2021 school year while battling the effects of the pandemic. We worked together and managed to get through the entire year without having to close the schools. Our students and staff quarantined in just about every single program while we all followed the guidelines set forth by the CDC and the local and state health departments. Unfortunately, some of us experienced severe illness and have lost family members or friends. This has tested us in so many ways, but we are now finally beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. More than half of the country is vaccinated, case counts are dropping, and fewer people are being hospitalized. Good things are beginning to happen and a sense of normalcy is on the horizon.

Last night I stayed up late and watched the school budget results come in. They were looking very positive and when I woke up this morning, I saw that an overwhelming majority of the budgets passed. This is so good for us because districts will be more likely to send us students for the upcoming school year. Projected enrollment figures for next year look very encouraging. This, as you know, means job security and hiring instead of layoffs.

As always, I want to thank our members for their voluntary Vote-Cope contributions this year. We raised almost \$30,000 for Vote-Cope which helped elect pro-public education and pro-labor members to the state assembly and senate. Things are really looking good at the moment. Federal aid is pouring in and districts are being provided with funding that they haven't seen in decades. Finally, there is enough to go around to ensure that all of our students are provided with the tools that are needed to achieve success and become productive members of society.

First Vice President - Ray Stenberg



Things Are Looking Good

I also want to thank all of the new members who have signed onto the union. Your decision to be part of this wonderful union will ensure that you continue to receive competitive wages and benefits. As a matter of fact, NYSUT always comments about how “rich” our yellow and blue contracts are. As always, your union will always be there to support you and defend you when the need arises.

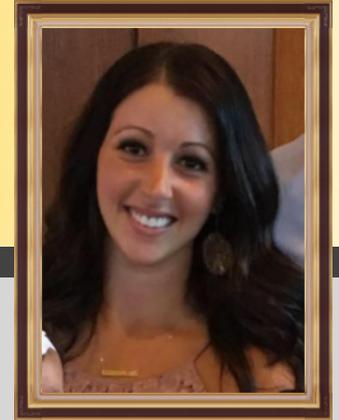
Normally, I would end my final article of the school year with “have a good summer, I look forward to seeing you on opening day” Well, I can’t say that this time because after 38 years of public service, I have decided to retire. I look forward to weeding and reading. I can’t wait to plan trips and adventures. Bali, Bora Bora, and the Maldives are on the top of the list. I will be joining my friend, Jim Beck on an elephant in the jungles south of Bangkok, and I will be sipping margaritas and eating fried conch on the beach in Key West. I will miss all of the wonderful people that I’ve met over the course of my career, the students whose lives I’ve impacted and the conferences and conventions that I was lucky to attend. I’ve had a flawless career here at Eastern Suffolk BOCES and I was blessed to work side by side with hundreds of professional educators and support staff.

I wish nothing but the best for my fellow retirees. May you experience many more years of good health, happiness, and guaranteed direct deposits from the retirement system.

RAY



Area VP for Para Educators - Amanda Pica



Amazing SRPs

June 2021! It seems surreal that we have made it to the home stretch. We started off this year with a lot of fear and uncertainty. We feared the unknown but were able to push through and after sometime we started to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel. I sit here today so proud of all WE have overcome. When the waters were rough we all came together as one united union and were able to provide the best for our colleagues and students. As we end this year I hope each and every one of you can take this time to recharge your batteries, reconnect with loved ones, and enjoy the sunshine.

As for our E-Board this has been a long journey, but one we couldn't have done without each other. We faced many challenges this year, most of which were uncharted territory, but we stuck together and I can say that I am proud of the work we accomplished. I am thankful for each and everyone of you!

To our retirees, now the fun begins! May this chapter in life bring you lots of relaxation, health, & happiness! You will all be truly missed. I wish you the best of luck!

Amanda



Area VP for Special Education - Patti Richards



Our Priority is You

Congratulations to all our retirees. You have served our students well over the years and now it is time for you to enjoy. I want to personally thank Jim Beck, our union President and Ray Stenberg, our First Vice President for their dedication and hard work with our BEES Union. Their guidance has been immense and what they have accomplished for our members will never be forgotten. I wish all the BEES retirees much happiness and good health as you embark on your retirement journey.

Once again, I thank you all for trusting me to represent you as the Area Vice President of Special Education. Throughout this year, many of you have reached out personally with questions needing answers or to say thank you for the work the E-Board has done. What we all accomplished throughout this pandemic has not gone unnoticed. We have persevered through numerous challenges and have come out stronger and smarter, despite adversity.

As a union, our priority is you, the member. Our goal is to provide support, guidance, and advice. This year we established new ways to get your questions answered. Our BEES closed Facebook Group and general membership Zoom meetings were instrumental in getting information out to all of you.

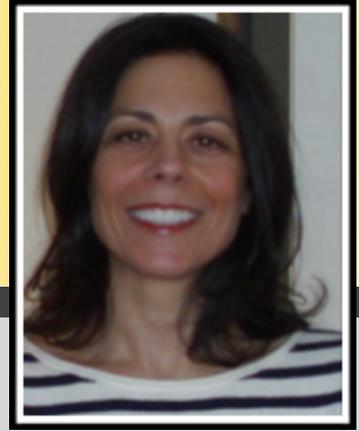
As we look to the future there are many unknowns going forward. As we are unsure of what Covid-19 guidelines will be put in place as it is ever changing. We do not know if masks will be worn or if everyone will need to remain three feet apart. But based on what you all accomplished throughout this pandemic; I am confident you will be able to meet any new challenges presented.

Have a fabulous summer,

Patti



Area VP for Itinerants/SAS - Kristin Ericson Abbruzzese



Thank You

Happy end of the school year. We did it! I think for many of us it was a difficult and trying year but we were there for our students and hopefully for one another. I do hope at this time, you, your family and friends are all healthy and looking forward to some quality time together this summer. I know my goal this summer is to do some recharging, visiting with those I have not seen since pre-COVID and getting back on a routine. For many of us, we may have a new “normal” and some new routines that may take some time to get used to.

Some points to get out to everyone are really just reminders; we all need to make sure we keep ourselves connected to some platform in order to get information from our union as to what is happening and the newest issues at hand. For those of you who have not signed up to receive the text blast we encourage you to do so by texting the word BEES to the number 33222. I find getting a text blast is often a reminder and a good resource for important information. We assure you we are not selling or sharing your information with anyone. Please don't forget to complete the (15) staff development hours, a requirement as per our contract, and the form and return it to HR by July 1. Members sometimes forget to turn this in with all the hustle and bustle of the end of the year and then when they go to use the credit for advancement it is not there. ESBOCES has denied giving members this credit or the money since they did not hand in the form even though they did the hours. If you are a related service member and carry a license with the state that needs to be renewed please always remember to send in your updated license. According to our contract both of these issues are money, or (1) credit, in your pocket so don't leave it on the table. Your union has fought for these benefits, so make sure you enjoy what is to come to you. Also, please put together a folder for yourself which includes the updated salary schedule and in the fall when ESBOCES asks us to confirm your salary listed, including any longevities you may be entitled to, check that it is correct before you click off on it in Wincap. Your attendance balance is another important factor to compare to last year, what carried over and what you are receiving for the new year because this is another contractual benefit that we all work hard to keep. If you do not have a designated folder for all your ESBOCES correspondence, make this a homework assignment for the summer. I do believe that by the time this article goes to print I should have updated seniority lists so please email me at beesvpitin@gmail.com to get your number. At the time of this article I was not hearing of any positions being cut but I do know some members like to know their number.

I want to wish everyone retiring the best and nothing but good health and great times with family and friends. Have a great summer, be safe and please reach out should you have any questions

Kristin



The Finish Line

Dear CTE Friends and Colleagues,

We made it! The end of another challenging school year is upon us and the signs of summer have been sneaking their way in the way they do when you are often too busy to notice. The culmination of the school year is busy with testing and grades and graduations. Add to that the quarantining, google classroom monitoring and a plethora of other responsibilities and you have what should be an insurmountable task to achieve. Yet here we are, ready to say goodbye to another group of our kids- sending them off into the world of college or work or both. CTE Teachers have once more done an incredible job of being role models of work ethic and professionalism and I am proud to belong to this group of dedicated but exhausted BEES CTE Teachers.

Know that your BEES E-Board never stops advocating for you, no matter how hot the summer gets and we are reachable for your questions or concerns. The emails are listed on the BEES Beacon website!

So, with that being said, I wish you all a healthy summer. Get your face in the sun (wear sunscreen ☺), swim in the waves, play with your pets or kids. Eat healthy food. Wake up every morning and thank your higher power for another one. Love and appreciate your people as there's no guarantee that tomorrow will be there. Most of all, take care of YOU because in a few short months there's an exploding roster of former and brand new young ones who need you to be in tip top shape to do it all again -hopefully, without the Covid-19 challenges.

Reach me any time by email at Laxmom14@aol.com (YES I still use AOL!)

Make summer wonderful...

Rosaria

Contractual Benefits Officer - Nick DeBlanco



It Benefits You to Know

Hello fellow BEES members, the sunny spring days are upon us. With spring comes renewal and most of us have been cooped up for a long time. As the virus rates seem to be on their way down, and a lot of restrictions are being lifted, vacation time is starting to cross everyone's mind again.

The NYSUT member benefit trust has many options for you to take advantage of during the summer months. To highlight just a few, the travel and tours section has many group discounts for traveling and resort discounts. The section on dining and shopping offers group discounts on a wide range of opportunities, including percentages off and buy one get one offers.

Hitting the open road with a discount on car rentals has never been easier. Multiple car rental companies offer generous discounts. Driving your own car? A defensive driving course to lower your insurance is available at group discount rates. Checkout all the offers at www.memberbenefits.nysut.org

A reminder for the Yellow contract members. July first is when the life insurance plan changes take effect.

Enjoy the nice weather and recharge your body, mind, and soul.

-Nick

**UNION
STRONG
UNION
PROUD**

Membership Secretary - Lisa Mongiello



A Happy Hive

We made it through another school year, but as we all know, this one was like no other! This time of year always allows us to reflect, and we have much to be proud of for the outstanding work we have done. When I think back to September and all the unknowns we have navigated, it is truly incredible how well we have done to ensure our students have what they need. We have come together and collaborated, despite all the new mandates and protocols. We create lasting experiences and growth that impact our students in so many ways through all our work together.

Believe it or not, the agency continues to hire new staff throughout the year, even at this time, which helps us grow our union members and our voice. Membership really does matter. Following the Janus decision, every new hire eligible to become a Blue or Yellow contract member must have easy access to enrollment and information about union benefits. That's where you come in! We can all have a role in sharing the benefits of our union with potential members. It's not just the benefits of our contract, but also member benefits and access to discounts in education, insurance, travel, and so much more!

This year we proved that we could stick together and do what seems impossible. We must remember that our union is our voice, and there is strength through our collective membership.

Congratulations to all the BEES retirees! And for those of us returning, I wish you a happy and healthy summer!

A helpful hint: If you have a change of name or address, please send an email to mongiellobeeunion@gmail.com so I can update it for you!

Lisa



Treasurer - Michelle Tinter



Budgeting the BEES

Welcome to spring and our final BEES Beacon for the 2020-2021 school year. Oh what a year it has been, and as I reflect upon our year personally and professionally, it certainly was challenging, and yet extremely rewarding. Our students and colleagues have risen to a most unprecedented measure, and are often humbled by our accomplishments.

Traditionally, we celebrate our union members, friends and colleagues who are retiring from service. Unfortunately, we cannot honor you this year at our end of the year Retiree Honorarium, however I would personally like to congratulate you and wish you all much health, happiness and enjoyment into retirement! Thank you for your years of dedication and service to the agency and for being a supportive union member.

As you may know, our union President Jim Beck is retiring from service as well. Personally, I would like to take a moment to thank Jim for his unprecedented dedication and service to our Executive Board, as well as our union members. Working alongside Jim during his years on the board has been a privilege. Thank you Jim for your friendship, leadership and your shoulder. You will be missed!

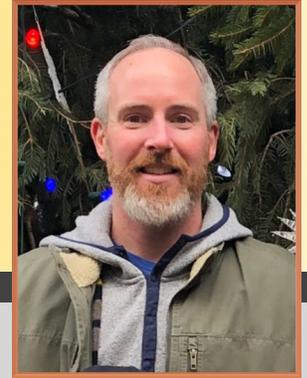
Ray Stenberg, our First Vice President is also joining the retiree club. Ray, thank you as well for your service to our union and guidance throughout the years. Enjoy!

In closing, I would like to thank all our members who have and continue to “stick with their union”, it is greatly appreciated!

In Solidarity,

Michelle

Grievance Officer - Keith Flynn



Optimism and Excitement

I would first like to congratulate all our retirees; I wish we could all meet together to celebrate your careers. I know many of our retirees may have mixed feelings because of their dedication to the profession, but I wish you the best of luck as you transition to the next phase of your life. I want to thank Jim Beck and Ray Stenberg for their leadership, dedication and service as BEES Union Executive Board members. Their contributions and hard work have only made our union stronger. All of our soon to be retired union members have the comfort of knowing they will receive their guaranteed benefits into retirement due to the collective bargaining agreements our union works hard to maintain with the Agency.

There was a tremendous amount of work done this year, behind the scenes, to protect the rights of our members and to negotiate on your behalf. From the delivery of virtual instruction, virtual instruction compensation, COVID leaves, members quarantining, restoring your absence balances due to quarantine, etc. These are just some of the examples of your local BEES union fighting for our members.

This year was like no other in public education. It's hard to believe that June is almost here. Summer brings optimism and excitement, and for some, time off to relax and recharge the batteries. I know that this summer I am going to soak up a little more sun, spend some quality time with the family and to be truly grateful to hopefully put COVID-19 in the rearview mirror. I am going to be optimistic that next school year will be a little more "normal".

As the Grievance Officer the last 2 years, I haven't had to file a single one due to the Building Representatives and Executive Board's hard work to handle things collaboratively. I want to thank all those who have supported me and feel free to reach out to the Executive Board with any questions.

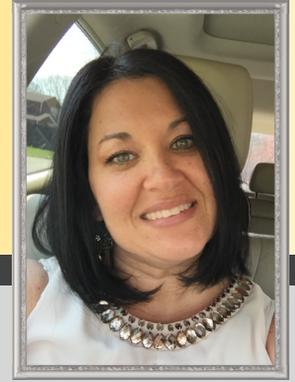
Next year I am going to have "big shoes" to fill as I will take over for Ray Stenberg (on an interim basis), as First Vice President. I wish everyone a healthy and relaxing summer!

Be well,

Keith



Social Chair - Danielle Ibba-Morabito



Let's be Social(ly Distanced)

Wow, how unsure I was to come back to school in September. So many different emotions: nervous, scared and excited for a little normalcy, and now here we are in June. Many of you have had heart aches, some have had sickness in their homes. Through it all we made it and I am honored to work with so many BEES professionals that always put the students first no matter what we faced.

The summer will fly by and before we know it, it will be time to start the 21-22 school year. For some of us, the end of this school year means new beginnings, whether in a new building or new position or you are at the end of a wonderful career, and you are heading down that path of retirement. For those of you finishing up your first year with Eastern Suffolk BOCES, I hope the year was a great success! We would like to wish you all a safe, happy and restful summer.

Due to the pandemic this year we had to cancel the 2020 BEES Retiree Honorarium. Although this is sad news, we do not want you to think we forgot about our amazing retirees. The union would still like to honor all the years of dedication you have shown Eastern Suffolk BOCES and the BEES throughout your years of service by sending a gift to your home by mail. You will also be gifted your first year of dues to the BEES Retiree Chapter run by Retiree Chapter Chair, Terry Kalb. She is looking forward to meeting you.

We want to keep in contact with you. To those members of the BEES that are retiring, we wish you a happy and healthy retirement. We, of course, welcome your membership under your new hard earned title of "retiree". Keep a look out for the retiree gift that will come in the mail! Please check our web page: <http://www.beesbeacon.org/> The retiree slide show will be up and there is always information that might be useful.

Welfare:

The loss of a loved one is an emotional time, and one of the worst things we may go through in life. It is with that thought that we would like to reach out to our families in need in a timely manner. There are guidelines for sending out cards or a small token to the family of a member. In the past I have gotten several requests that I was not able to send out in a timely manner because the guidelines below were not adhered to. Please make sure that you include all of the information listed below so that we may pay our respects to the families in their time of need. Thank you.

Guidelines for welfare:

A bereavement card will be sent in the event of a member's spouse, parent, child, or sibling's death. In the case of a member passing, special circumstances will then apply. The procedure for a sympathy card to be sent is as follows: Members should contact their building representative as soon as they believe a member meets the above guidelines and a bereavement card should be sent. The building representative should contact me via email at daniellesocialchairbees@gmail.com with the member's name, address as well as the name and relation to the deceased. In the event it is a member that has passed, I still need their name, address and a home or cell number of a member of their family so that we can acknowledge their service with us in a special way. If you need more information, see your building rep, check out our BEES website or feel free to send me an email.

My email address is: daniellesocialchairbees@gmail.com

Have a great, healthy, and safe summer,

Danielle

Recording Secretary - Angela Ritchie



Nice Notes

Dear Fellow BEES Members,

As this school year comes to a close, I would like to take the opportunity to thank our members for their hard work and dedication to our students, as well as each other, during these uncertain times. No one could imagine we would be returning to school incorporating PPE into our normal attire and all the restrictions that went with it. During our daily routines in the classroom, we became very mindful as we tried to maintain social distancing, cleanliness, and responsibility, in and out of school. Many of us had to include remote learning into our schedules, often realizing the results did not measure up to in person instruction.

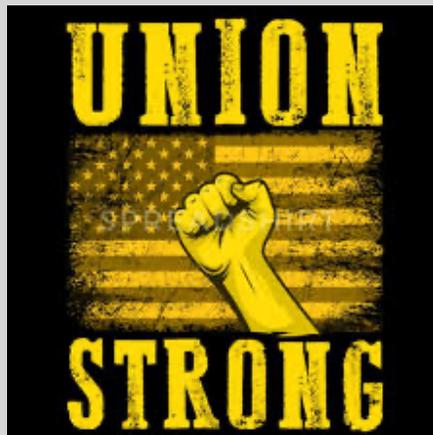
However, we prevailed. I have seen staff go above and beyond the required needs of their students, realizing that this pandemic is affecting them more than we are aware of. Your resilience and commitment to this organization has been above anyone's expectations and I know it will continue as we move forward.

May you all enjoy the months ahead and have a peaceful and relaxing summer.

Thank you for sticking with the union!

Regards,

Angela



Retiree Chapter Chairperson - Terry Kalb

Union Yes!



Hello Retirees and a special welcome to those BEES joining us in June!

We are cautiously emerging from a historic pandemic, with sorrow and condolences for those who have lost beloved family members and colleagues to COVID19. As survivors, we rejoice in the availability of effective vaccines, and the opportunity to safely embrace our dear children and grandchildren, parents, extended family and friends, as we can safely gather again. As retirees, we feel so grateful to all the first responders, including our school employees colleagues, whose commitment to their jobs made our national recovery possible.

On June 2nd at 10:15AM, there will be a Zoom meeting for all Retiree Council NYSUT 22 members. As BEES retirees, you are automatically members of RC22, made up of all the NYSUT retirees from East End of Suffolk School District Retiree Chapters. You should have gotten a postal newsletter from RC22 containing a registration link. As the newly elected president of RC22, I encourage you to join us virtually as we vote on ratification of a revised Constitution, and discuss upcoming legislative and other issues related to our retiree pensions, benefits, Social Security, Medicare and more. We would also love to plan our annual in person free Welcome Breakfast for 19-20 and 20-21 school year retirees. Volunteers always needed! Contact me if you have any questions.

You will be receiving a BEES Retirees newsletter in August with a reminder that your \$35 dues check should be mailed in September for the 21-22 school year. If you retired in the 20-21 school year, your dues for 21-22 are waived as part of your compensation for missing an in person honorarium. Please make sure we have your personal email, as your BOCES email will disappear by the time you arrive home on your last day of work. If you retired in 19-20 or earlier, we hope you will stay with us as members of the BEES Retirees! If you are on FaceBook, please join our private group- just search for BEES (BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk) Retirees and add your name. UNION, YES!

Best wishes for a healthy, happy summer!

Terry Kalb
BEES Retiree Chapter President
terrykalb@yahoo.com



BEES Executive BOARD Members

for the 2021-2022 School Year

Asha Mazza-Shaw - President
Amanda Pica - Executive Vice President
Al Rios - Executive Vice President
Keith Flynn - First Vice President
Angela Ritchie - Area Vice President Para Educators
Patti Richards - Area Vice President Special Education
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Michelle Tinter - Treasurer
Nick DeBlanco - Contractual Benefits Officer
Lisa Mongiello - Membership Secretary
TBA - Grievance Officer
Danielle Ibba-Morabito - Social Chair
TBA - Recording Secretary
Dennis Charaton - Webmaster
Terry Kalb - Retiree Chapter Chairperson
Mary Longo - BEES Office Secretary
Asha Mazza-Shaw - BEES Beacon Publisher

Please Note we have a new office location and mailing address:
PO Box 434
1266 Waverly Ave.
Farmingville, NY 11738



BEEES

BOCES Educators of Eastern Suffolk

Union Strong

Jim Beck - President
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Proud members of AFT, NYSUT and AFL-CIO

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