

SPEAK OUT!



From the Acting President: Kim Chesko

Well, here we are – we’ve almost made it. We have just a few short weeks left in this school year before we all head out into the sunshine and get reacquainted with the world outside of our classrooms. We’ve seen some good times, some bad times and lots of changes this year, and we have weathered them all with professionalism, optimism and ingenuity.

budget vote, but we can find some silver linings in the storm clouds. As I mentioned above, we helped to elect all three of our candidates to the Board of Education, which is a huge win.

We were able to mobilize and engage so many of our members in the budget process through phone banking, social media and one to one conversations. And when all eyes were on us, our professionalism and excellence never wavered – this is something that I am proud of every day.

The Good

This year we have much to celebrate as a union. We finalized our newest contract, fundraised for scholarships and contributions to our community, reached out to members, and had an active and ever-present voice in our district. We also gained a strong new voice within our state union when our very own Jolene DiBrango was elected Executive Vice President of NYSUT. We were able to mobilize our members like never before during budget season, and helped elect our endorsed candidates to the BOE – one, Rene Kazacos, being a full-time teacher and unionist. This year our union spoke clearly and loudly, and we were heard.

Per NYS law, the district is putting a second budget up to vote on June 20th. Please check VP for Administration Stephanie Warchol’s article in this issue for more information, or check the district website. If you are a resident please don’t forget to VOTE on June 20th.

Changes on the Horizon

This spring, our Resolutions Specialist, Dwayne Cerbone, ran unopposed for the position of PDTA President. I know that you will all join me in welcoming him to the job. I also know that he will lead us with the care, thoughtfulness, integrity and inner strength that all who know him have become so familiar with.

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve you, even if briefly, as PDTA President, and I look forward

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to continuing to serve in a different capacity. On Monday, per our constitution, Dwayne appointed me as our new Resolutions Specialist. I am excited to begin this new role in the 2017-18 school year.

Thank you for all you have done for your colleagues and students this year. Summer will be here before we know it – be sure to take time to enjoy it, recharge your batteries, and find balance. See you all soon!



Get Out The Vote, Again!

Stephanie Warchol, VP for Administration



As we all know, the proposed 2017-18 budget did not get the super majority vote needed on May 16, and as a result did not pass. According to state law, the district then had less than a week to create a second budget. During this brief window of time, the Board and Superintendent reviewed the exit poll data and community survey results. Many suggested that the district should stay within the New York State Property Tax Cap, other feedback they received from the community was that they would not be in support of full-day kindergarten if it meant cutting other opportunities or programs.

On May 24, at a special Board of Education meeting, they held the adoption of the newly proposed 2017-2018 budget. In addition to taking full-day kindergarten out of the budget, due to various appropriations and revenues, they were also able to make up over \$374,000. Here are the details of the new budget:

- Proposed increase of 3.63%
- Estimated tax levy increase of 2.7% (which is within the NYS Tax Cap)
- Simple Majority is needed (50% + 1 voter)
- Estimated Tax Rate increase of \$0.45 or 1.76%
- Approx. increase \$99 property tax for average home (\$250,000 assessed value, eligible for BASIC STAR exemption)

If this second proposed budget vote fails on June 20, 2017, the Board of Education must adopt a contingent budget. Under a contingent budget, the District must adopt a budget with the same tax levy as the 2016-2017 school year- essentially a zero percent cap- which, for PCSD, would result in approximately \$2.6 million in further reductions. Virtually all areas within the budget would be adversely impacted within the parameters of the law.

The Pittsford Central School District and its individual schools consistently provide a nationally ranked academic program, and are recognized to be among the highest achieving in New York State and Monroe County. PCSD has a 99% graduation rate and 97% of those students are college-bound. We are proud of these achievements and want to maintain our high standards of excellence. So, please bring your friends, colleagues, family, neighbors, and go vote! The PCSD 2017-2018 budget revote is on June 20, 7 am to 9 pm in the Barker Road Middle School gymnasium.

To find more information about the proposed 2017-2018 budget and details on the revote, please click [here](#).

The NEW pdta.org

Brian Regan



If you've clicked on PDTA.org recently, you may have noticed things have changed! Effective June 1st, I have taken over management of the PDTA website from Jennifer Lonardo, as she

is retiring. All the best to Jennifer!

I've completed a full rebuild of the site. The content is still essentially the same, but I've made some changes to the

organization and design. Please take a few minutes to look the site over. I am very interested in your reaction and suggestions.

Pittsford District Teachers Association



HOME PEOPLE DOCUMENTS PARTNERS



PEOPLE

DOCUMENTS

PARTNERS

- Providing support for successful careers in public education.
- Developing collaborative relationships among all educators.
- Targeting positive public relations.
- Advancing a strong professional spirit.

The home page includes a picture scroller and feeds from the PDTA Facebook and Twitter accounts. Going forward, if you have pictures of PDTA members being awesome, please send them my way to include.

What kind of information do YOU want to find on the PDTA website?

Contact me at brian_regan@pittsford.monroe.edu



Summer Topics

Dwayne Cerbone, Resolution Specialist

It has been my absolute privilege to serve our Union and our members as the Resolution Specialist / Grievance Chair for the past 5 years. It is my hope that this experience coupled with my passion for education will serve you well as I become the next president for PDTA. I look forward to working closely with each of you in the coming year in my new role!

Summer 2017 is upon us with all of the family adventures, rest, peaceful mornings, and yes, plenty of school related activities. Below are a few of the most relevant contractual topics for you to consider.

1-8 Compensation in the Event of Reassignment

Section 1-8 of the contract states that professional employees are entitled to one day of paid summer work (1/200th of your salary) if you need to move from one school to another, move grade levels in the same elementary school, change subject matter (i.e. Math to Science), are notified of a change in room assignment after June 15th for the following year.

1-9 Compensation for Summer Employment and Enrichment

Staff employed by the District during the summer months to perform the same or comparable duties as during the regular school year shall be paid 1/200th of their salary. Staff

employed to teach the self-supporting enrichment program shall be paid \$41.82/hr.

1-10 Compensation for Curriculum Writing

Professional staff members who participate on approved Curriculum Writing Committees shall be paid \$42.62/hr for their work.

If you are asked to perform work over the summer that does not align with one of these categories please ask your administrator to clarify the pay rate for that service and then contact your Building Representative to verify that the payment is proper or if the reason for non-compensation is appropriate.

Once again, there are many wonderful opportunities provided this summer through the PCSD Teacher Center. The Teacher Center is directed by one of our own dedicated members, Julie Barker, who works diligently along with various other teacher-leaders to develop courses that align with the District's Strategic Initiative while assuring we also fulfill our contractual and certification requirements. All summer PD beyond the required 12hours are compensated at the rate of \$23.82/hr. Please remember that all hours must be completed by May 31st of the following year.

Additionally, if you will be taking or already completed graduate work please read below.

1-2 Compensation for Graduate Courses

1-2-1 All courses taken for salary credit must be approved by the Superintendent of his/her designee prior to the start of the course.

[This "prior" timing is vital and will continue to be obvious in the following sections]

1-2-2 Employees shall be compensated for graduate work and university sponsored clinical training in blocks of six credit hours to a maximum of 90 credit hours. Compensation shall not be granted for in-service training occurring during the normal workday or when expenses for the training are reimbursed to the employee.

1-2-6 Salary adjustments shall be made only at the beginning of each semester following the submission of proof of successful completion of the course. Graduate credit completed in the spring and summer semester shall generate salary adjustments as of the following September 1st. Graduate courses successfully completed in the fall semester shall generate salary credit effective the following February 1st.

[It is your responsibility to submit evidence of successful course/degree completion and to monitor your current credits.]

Building News

TRES:

Lindsay Stephens - 2nd grade teacher – Congratulations to Lindsay and Mike Stephens on the arrival of Madison Ann and Molly Marita! Madison was born on 3/24/17 at 8:36am. She weighs 4lbs. 1oz. and is 16.91 inches. Molly was born at 8:37am. She weighs 4lbs. 14oz. and is 17.91 inches.

Nick Scinta-5th grade teacher—Congratulations to Nick and Casey Scinta on the arrival of Kieran James. Kieran was born on 4/12/17. He weighs 5 lbs. and is 18.5 inches. Mom and baby are both doing well.

Rich Parkison-head custodian—Congratulations to Rich and Angie Parkison on the arrival of Richard Lawrence. Richard was born on 5/10/17. He weighs 7 lbs. 6 oz.

Public Relations

Kelly Jordan



Dear Colleagues,

THANK YOU for your support of our PDTA Chicken BBQ fundraiser! We are so proud to announce that we have raised \$2783 from this event! Our Public Relations committee has had a very busy year. We thank you for all of your support this year. Our PR committee has done the following awesome things with help from all of you:

- Raised \$650 from our raffle at the Annual Benefits Fair
- Walked with a team of 18 members in the Making Strides Walk for breast cancer in October (and donated over \$1000 to cancer research)
- Donated food each month to our Pittsford Food Cupboard
- Raised \$2783 from our Chicken BBQ
- Participated in many Union Solidarity days with our PDTA apparel
- Awarded two PDTA scholarship for \$1500 each to a graduating senior from each of our Pittsford high schools
- Donated \$150 to Pittsford Youth Services
- Donated \$150 to Pittsford Ambulance
- Donated \$150 to Pittsford Fire Department

Thank you for a great year!

PDTA Membership Drive

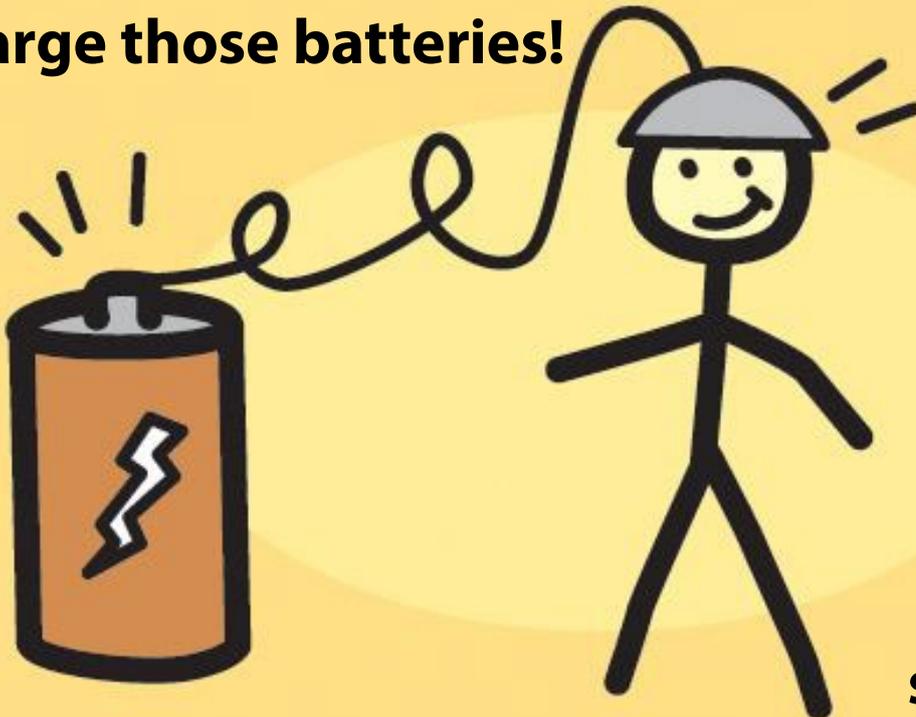
Paul LeVan



Our PDTA Membership Drive has once again proven to be a great success. In uncertain times such as these, both statewide and national, a united membership is of the utmost importance. Without the help of our building membership chairs, a successful membership drive wouldn't be possible.

Special thanks go out to: Kathy Rudd, Joanna Farrell, Jen Villareale, Sue Ann McGrath, Patty Morse, Becky Nunn, Julie Barker, Annemarie Inzana, Steve Smith, and Brian Kohrt. Thank you all for your continued membership. It is our unity that gives us strength.

Recharge those batteries!



**Have a
GREAT
summer.**



Political Action

Karen Grace

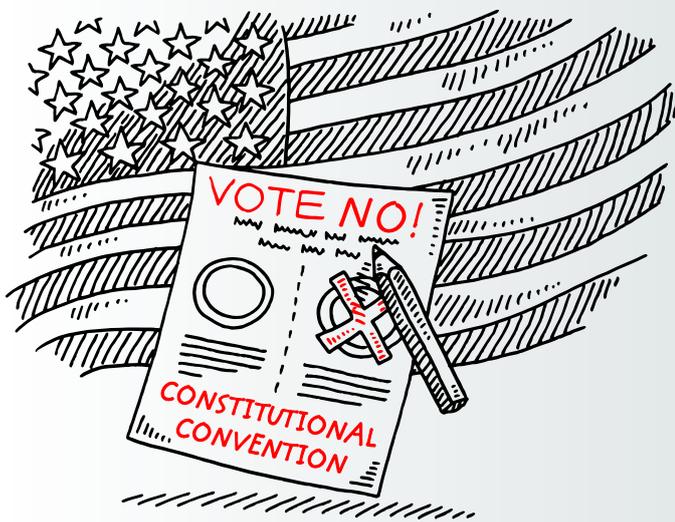
We urge our members to vote NO in NOVEMBER!!

New York State will be asking the citizens of NYS this November if they can hold a Constitutional Convention. Learn all you can and help educate your friends and family on the dangers opening the Constitution can bring.

Reprinted from the June 2017 NYSUT United:

Open the state constitution? Heck, NO.

We have a better, cheaper way to change state's constitution



This is the eighth in a series about key reasons why an upcoming referendum to hold a state constitutional convention must be defeated. The series, "Open the state constitution? Heck, NO," examines topics — collective bargaining, public pensions, forever wild provisions, public education and social welfare obligations — that would be at risk if an expensive state constitutional convention was held. And make no mistake, a constitutional convention would cost taxpayers plenty.

By Kara Smith
ksmith@nysutmail.org

Think holding a constitutional convention is the only way to change the New York State Constitution? Think again. There's a much simpler way to amend it and, unlike the hundreds of millions a constitutional convention is estimated to cost, it doesn't cost taxpayers a thing.

State legislators routinely pass bills to make constitutional changes as part of their regular, day-to-day job responsibilities. In fact, it's been done roughly 200 times since the last major constitutional redraft in 1894.

Here's how it works:

Measures altering the state constitution must win voter approval after they are passed by two separately elected bodies of the New York State Legislature, as constitutionally required. For example, a bill approved by a legislative body elected in 2014 must also be approved by a state Legislature elected two years later, in 2016. If both legislative bodies approve the bill, it goes before voters on that year's November ballot where it must win statewide voter approval.

"This is a better way to make changes, because it provides a system of checks and balances and gives regular people a

bigger say in the amendment process," said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta.

"Best of all, it costs taxpayers nothing."

Some recent examples of this process include:

- the statewide expansion of casino gambling;
- selling specific tracts of land within the constitutionally protected Adirondack Park; and
- a measure allowing the Senate and Assembly to go paperless, which saves more than \$325,000 annually in printing and paper costs.

Since a simpler and cheaper method exists for changing the state constitution, holding a convention is like using a slide rule to crunch numbers instead of a computer. You can do it, but why would you?

It's estimated that hosting delegates and staff in Albany for an open-ended constitutional convention would cost hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars — hundreds of millions that could be spent on education, health care, infrastructure improvements or dozens of

“ This is a better way to make changes, because it provides a system of checks and balances and gives regular people a bigger say in the amendment process. Best of all, it costs taxpayers nothing. ”

— ANDY PALLOTTA

What you need to know

- The constitutionally required 20-year referendum to propose a constitutional convention will be on the Nov. 7 ballot.
- If it passes, three delegates per state Senate district and 15 at-large delegates — 204 in total — would be elected at the next general election, in November 2018.
- Delegates can include members of the Legislature or other elected officials, as well as political party leaders — and they can hold both positions, collecting both salaries and double pension credits.
- The convention would meet in Albany in 2019 for an unspecified duration, and then publish its suggested amendments.
- Any proposed changes are submitted to voters for approval separately or as a group for another public referendum.

Learn more about the perils of a constitutional convention and what you can do to educate yourself and others. Visit:

www.nonewyorkconvention.org
www.nysut.org/concon

other investments a lot more important to New Yorkers statewide.

If changes to the state constitution can take place without taxpayers footing the bill for delegate salaries, travel expenses, per diems and pension costs, why have a constitutional convention at all?

It's a good question.

On Nov. 7, remember to vote NO on the constitutional convention.

Lots more information and swag available at <http://nonewyorkconvention.org/>



SRP Newslink

Lorinda Spring

As we approach the end of the school year, the following are some things to

keep in mind.

SRP Postings:

As you know, postings are delayed this year so please be sure to check your email regularly over the next few weeks and throughout the summer months if you desire a change in assignment or do not yet know where your placement is for next year. You may post as often as you'd like in your current seniority category until you find a job you want. If you are displaced, you must post for open positions when they become available. Failure to do so could result in an assignment being made for you or loss of your position.

When posting for more than one position, please prioritize your job choices (1st, 2nd, 3rd).

If you are interested in a job outside your current category, you may submit a letter of interest to Human Resources. Keep in mind that changing categories places you at the bottom of the seniority list of the new category. However, all of your years of service remain intact and count toward the career award.

The Posting and Transfer Process Document that was emailed to all PDTA members details frequently asked questions. Please contact me at Lorinda_Spring@pittsford.monroe.edu.

edu if you need a copy or further clarification regarding this process.

SRP Summer Work Day:

Before you leave for the summer, please remember to complete your Summer Work Day Prior Approval/ Verification form and submit it to your building principal. To print a copy of the form, go to PDTA.org and click Documents - Forms - SRP Summer Work Day Form.

You may also go to the district website and click on Forms for Business Office. Then go to Quick Links- Forms, Publications- Human Resources- Forms- SRP Summer Work Day Prior Approval Form.

Finally, below you will find your SRP leaders for the 2017-2018 school year.

SRP Representative- Lorinda Spring
Assistant SRP Representatives- Lisa Backscheider, Radhika Ramesh, Connie Bader, Suzanne Kaier-Tuttle, Maryanne Maland, Sherry Tontarski and Vicki McCutchon.

As your leaders, we work continuously to advocate for you. Please contact any of us with your questions, concerns or comments.

Enjoy these last few week with students and have a wonderful, relaxing summer vacation!

Building

Representatives:

- Allen Creek: Dennise Zobel
- Jefferson Road: Julie Shaw
- Mendon Center: Jill Drake
- Park Road: Karen Socker
- Thornell Road: Lisa Mauger
- Barker Road: Kristen Dolan
- Calkins Road: TBA
- Mendon High School: Dave Larson
- Sutherland High School: Lynne Drake
- SRP Representative: Lorinda Spring

Assistant Building

Representatives:

- Rhonda Matthews, AC
- Elizabeth Kramer, JR
- Patty Mayer and
- Hendrina Schindeler, MCE
- Marcia Brown, PR
- Greg Bischooping, TR
- Karen Grace, Grace Kemp,
- Tammy Cole, BRMS
- Chrissy Doggett, Claudia Foti, CRMS
- Scott Bielec, Tom Kennell,
- Paula Fink, MHS
- Marc Hellems, Brian Schafer,
- Amanda Marshall, SHS

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- Lisa Backscheider, PR
- Radhika Ramesh, TR
- Constance Bader, BRMS
- Suzanne Kaier-Tuttle, MC
- Maryanne Maland, JR
- Sherry Tontarski, MC
- Vicki McCutchon, SHS



Speak Out is edited and assembled by Brian Regan.

Your feedback is welcome at brian_regan@pittsford.monroe.edu

Simplifying your life insurance options

As an educated consumer, you realize the earlier in life that you purchase life insurance, the cheaper the premiums will likely be. You're also aware that life insurance offers financial protection for your dependents upon your death, helping to cover the costs of funeral and burial expenses; assistance to help with your children's education; and offering financial assistance with paying debts and other expenses.

It can be overwhelming, though, trying to determine the best type of life insurance policy. Let's take a look at some of the different types of life insurance options available.

#1: Whole Life Insurance

– This type of insurance is usually the most costly since policies are guaranteed to remain in force as long as premiums are paid. Whole life insurance offers permanent protection with premiums that never increase and builds cash

value you can borrow against while you are living (like a loan). **Important:** Understand that you will reduce your death benefit if you don't repay loans with interest and will no longer have coverage if you surrender the policy.

#2: Term Life Insurance – This type of insurance pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specified term, offering a fixed rate of payments during that time period. Once that period ends, coverage at the previous premium rate is not guaranteed and the insured would need to get

further coverage. Term life insurance (and its level term life cousin) is designed only to protect your dependents if you were to die prematurely -- offering NO cash value.

#3: Level Term Life Insurance – Like term life insurance, level term life insurance pays a benefit in the event of the death of the insured during a specific time period. Premiums may not be

increased during the time period due to change in your age or health status.

#4: Universal Life Insurance

– This type of insurance offers a way to protect your dependents while building tax-deferred cash value. While the cost of a universal life plan needs to be covered so the policy remains in force, the policyholder has the option to adjust how much he or she will pay in premiums each year. Policyholders can also access a portion of the balance without affecting the

guaranteed death benefit as the cash value accumulates over time.

Keep in mind that NYSUT members & their spouses/certified domestic partners can help protect their dependents from life's uncertainties with a variety of NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed life insurance plans. Many of these plans offer group rates not available to the general public along with additional convenience and savings opportunities.

“Term life and level term life policies are often popular options for those individuals with young families since there is a greater need for life insurance protection. They also tend to be much less expensive than their whole life counterparts. If you are considering a term or level term life policy, make sure to consider how long you would need the coverage.”

For more information about these plans, visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mar./Apr. '17



Tickets just
\$20.99 plus tax
A savings of \$29.00!



DAYS

July 8-23, 2017



Did you know that 2017 marks the landmark 35th year for our signature corkscrew coaster - THE VIPER? Built in 1982, it was the first coaster in the world to feature five inversions.

Now you can print and order your tickets online with print and go.

YES! Send me _____ Darien Lake NYSUT tickets at \$20.99 plus tax (**\$21.39 each**) valid any **one** day July 8-23, 2017. **All mail orders must be received by July 1, 2017.**
A stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope must be included to receive your tickets, along with a check made payable to Darien Lake or credit card information

OR

Easiest Deal: Use Print-N-Go! For \$20.99 plus tax you can print your own Darien Lake NYSUT Day tickets from home:
Here's how:
Log on to www.DarienLake.com • Enter promo code: NYSUT • Pay by credit card...then • Print-N-Go!

NAME: _____ School Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

CITY: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

Credit Card Type: _____ Credit Card # _____ security code _____

Exp date: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____ Signature: _____

Mail your order with a self addressed envelope to:
Darien Lake, ATTN: NYSUT Days, PO Box 91, Darien Center, NY 14040
Or email groups@darienlake.com (Credit Card Orders Only)
Tickets are available the day of for \$24.99 plus tax at any ticket window.