

A MONTHLY REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP

September, 2017

L.I.F.E. (Long Island Federation of Educators)

A meeting took place over the summer on August 16, additional Long Island Locals have joined. Upcoming meeting is October 11, both Joe Mangini and Noele Villa will be attending with me. Interest in LIFE is growing in both Nassau and Suffolk counties. All new locals who have joined over the summer should be in attendance on October 11th.

VSTA-PAC/VOTE-COPE

We have now finalized our own Political Action Committee (PAC), with Julian Farrell (S) as our PAC Coordinator. Hundreds of our members have completed their PAC contribution forms removing themselves from VOTE/COPE. Anyone who has not completed the PAC form and was previously contributing to VOTE/COPE is still a contributor to VOTE/COPE. We are hoping by the end of this year all members will transition to the VSTA-PAC. If you would prefer to write a check we can also accommodate this method of contribution. Julian will be coordinating this later in the year in a similar fashion to what has previously been done with VOTE/COPE.

MEETING DATES

Reminder to attend your monthly Unit meetings as this is an important conduit of information. Also, members are welcome to attend monthly Executive Board meetings held on the second Thursday of each month in the Memorial JHS Media Center.

YEARLY AUDIT

On Monday September 18th the VSTA underwent our yearly audit by Skinnon and Faber, CPA. When the report is issued it will be shared with membership at our monthly Executive Board meeting.

VP MEMBERSHIP VACANCY

As I am sure you are aware by my recent email, Patrice Davidson (C) was unanimously voted on by the Executive Board at our September meeting to fill the vacant position of Vice-president of Membership. We are extremely happy to

have Patrice join the current slate of officers. She is and will continue to be a true asset for the VSTA.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Executive Board voted unanimously to have Kathleen Murray (#24) fill a vacancy on the Finance Committee.

STIPEND ADJUSTMENTS

The Executive Board voted unanimously to adjust Unit Leader stipend payments from May to April. Previously Unit Leaders received stipend payments one time a year in May, now they will receive their payment in April. This does not affect the amount of the stipend, just the timing of the payment.

DISTRICT 24 OVER PAYMENT ISSUE

VSTA officers became aware of the over payment issue during the last week of the 2016-2017 school year. The issue affects approximately 20 teachers in **District 24 ONLY**. An initial meeting took place on August 31st at the Buck School with the affected teachers, a second meeting took place with NYSUT Legal Council on September 19th. We are awaiting a response from NYSUT Legal before any further steps are taken.

WELCOME BACK HAPPY HOUR

On Friday, October 20th VSTA will be hosting a HAPPY HOUR for all members at KASEYS ROOFTOP in Rockville Centre. KASEYS is located at 23 North Park Ave. The event begins at 4:00 p.m. New members are admitted free. All others are charged \$10.00 which includes a complimentary drink, appetizers, music by T-Minus Ten and a door prize. **See Unit Leaders for tickets.**

NEW MEMBER LUNCH

On August 29th approximately 40 new staff members from all four districts attended our annual New Member lunch held in the Central H.S. Media Center. A number of Unit Leaders and Officers were also in attendance to welcome our newest members to the VSTA.

CHARITY BASKETBALL GAME

On October 27th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Memorial JHS gymnasium the VSTA will be participating in a charity basketball game against the "Court Jesters". Julian Farrell (S) and Joe Mangini (24) will be coordinating the team. We are hoping to get members from all 10 elementary schools along with members from the high school district to participate in the game. Both the North Woodmere Park Association and the VSTA will benefit. The VSTA will be contributing its funds to Hurricane Relief. The North Woodmere Park Association will be putting the funds to work in their local park association. We are hoping to sell out the gym at Memorial. Posters will be appearing soon in all buildings to promote the event. Hope to see you at the game.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

On November 7th in accordance with state law, New York State will be conducting a vote on the potential opening of our states constitutions. Please watch your weekly emails for information, some has already been distributed. This is a very important issue as it could have a monumental effect on all residents of our state. VSTA has already placed an order for 100's of buttons, magnetic bumper stickers and yard signs which will be distributed once they arrive. We are also planning a mock election prior to the actual election to raise awareness of this issue. All active and retired members of any New York State public sector Union should be concerned. Also the ballot will be 2 sided and it is our understanding that the question of opening up the State Constitution will be placed on the backside of the ballot. This makes it imperative that you turn to the back side of the ballot to **VOTE NO** on the Constitutional Convention.