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VSTA E-Newsletter

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SUMMER 2018

Janus Decision Not Favorable For Teachers' Unions

On Wednesday June 25th, the long awaited Supreme Court decision in the Janus Case came through, and it was not the decision teachers' unions across the US were hoping for. The 5-4 decision overturned the over four-decade long precedent allowing the mandated collection (in 22 states) of agency fees for teachers' unions, as well as non-education related unions.

Some labor experts fear that this decision could have unions facing the possible consequence of losing up to a third of paying members nationwide. This is a threat to teachers' unions as it will weaken their power locally, nationally, and politically.

How this affects VSTA will remain to be seen, but it is our sincere hope that our members unite and stay strong, together.

A Message from the VSTA Officers



Hello VSTA Members! Please stay tuned for follow-up information regarding the Janus decision over the next few weeks.

We wish you all a very happy and safe summer! Looking forward to another great school year, and of course the VSTA Social is right round the corner!

In Solidarity,
Your VSTA Officers

Valley Stream Teachers' Association

Valley Stream, New York - Local 1633
www.vsteachers.org

Richard Adams
President

Noele Villa
Vice President - Communication

Patrice Davidson

Vice President - Membership

Joseph Mangini
Vice President—Operations

Ronald Rini
Secretary/Treasurer

Ginger Calderaro
E-Newsletter Editor

Thoughts on Retirement...

Well my 18th year as an educator has come to a close and I can't help, as I lay out all the beautiful retirement photos, but think about this concept of retirement. As I was 21 when I began teaching, retirement, for me personally, is a very long way off. My mother always said, "don't wish your life away" and while she was right, there is something very magical about the idea of retirement. When the long final days of the school year wear on, we all have that same feeling. But as I look at the two incredible women from my own building who retired this year, sure there's a bit of envy, but more than that, there is a feeling of awe. For over thirty years each, they dedicated their lives to children and education. That is the only word I can summon. Dedication. People retire from careers all the time—it's not unique. But when a teacher retires, it most certainly is. Millions of educators retire from teaching and yet each of their stories are personal, and truly special. They deserve the cakes, the parties and fanfare, and most importantly, the time to rejuvenate, as a huge portion of their lives were lived for others. I just saw a tee shirt that read, "kindness looks beautiful on you". I immediately thought of VSTA's many retirees and it really does speak the whole truth. Kindness looks beautiful on each and every one of you. Cheers to the next chapter and thank you for your guidance, love for education and dedication. Happy summer to us all!

Celebrating VSTA's Retirees



*Photo credits:
Patrice Davidson
Patty Franco
Kim Cazzetto
Deirdre Gordon*



Financial advice shouldn't be a one-size-fits-all approach!

Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. -- the program provider of the NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program -- understands the unique benefits and retirement options of NYSUT members and how to address your specific financial needs.

There are two types of services available: a Full-Service Program and a 403(b) Advisor Option.

Financial Planning Center

Member Benefits also offers NYSUT members access at no charge to an online Financial Planning Center. Choose from more than 100 modules on a variety of financial topics.

NEW! -- Student Loan & Debt Consolidation Services

The NYSUT Member Benefits Corporation is pleased to announce the endorsement of Cambridge Credit Counseling as a provider to assist NYSUT members and their loved ones with better understanding their student loan re-payment options and/or debt consolidation. **Learn more about this new endorsed program by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org/cambridge.**

Expert legal assistance for NYSUT members

The program offers:

- Low annual cost of just \$85 (\$55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
- Includes Simple Will, Power of Attorney, Health Care Proxy & Living Will
- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Did you know NYSUT members have access to expert legal assistance for everything from preparing crucial estate planning documents to dealing with traffic violations?

Provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C., the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan offers access to a national network of attorneys that deal with personal legal matters.

For an additional fee, Plan participants can add an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider that provides access to attorneys who specialize in these areas.



Learn more by visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or calling 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.

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