Lockport Education Association
March/April 2023 Newsletter

Lockport Education Association
NYSUT Local 03-085 AFT Local 2794 AFL-CIO

www.lockportea.org

President's Update…
Courtesy of Scott Reddinger - LHS

Sisters and Brothers,

I trust this newsletter finds each of you well in mind, body and spirit. It goes without saying that the longer days, sunshine, and gradual warm-up of our weather is much needed after a long and busy winter. To that end, the year is moving quickly and before we know it summer recess will be upon us. A chance to rest, recharge and for some, to start the next exciting phase of life in retirement!

As LEA president, the past few months have been spent addressing the following larger issues: *Fire and its impact at EBIS, swatting/lockdowns at LHS and the district wide impact of the event, layoffs/personnel moves, preparing for Board of Education elections/endorsements and establishing an initial relationship with our new Superintendent, Dr. Calvin.*

Without the need to rehash some of these traumatic events for our membership, what I do want to share is the overwhelming pride I have in the members of our union who continually remain engaged in the process of protecting each other, our students, and advocating for the best interests of our public school system and association. Those sentiments have also been echoed by union and political leadership at the local, county, state and national levels.

Please understand that no matter how big of a role you play, being a part of the process is what counts! Being married to a fellow teacher, my wife often comments that in the face of my union activities, our jobs, raising four kids, having hobbies and our need for time together as a family, that she feels like she isn't doing enough for her own union. I consistently remind her that being an informed member is half of the battle! With that said, thank you for taking the time to read our newsletters, emails and various other communications. We share the essentials so you understand what we are collectively doing for you behind the scenes. On behalf of our LEA leadership, thank you for engaging where you can, how you can and as often as you can. If you ever find yourself asking, "what more can I do?", please reach out to a building representative or officer to find out where we can best utilize your strengths and availability.

On a positive note, I want you each to know that my earliest meetings and interactions with Dr. Calvin have been productive. His leadership style and approach are consistent with his interview and my conversations with other union leaders connected to his previous districts. He has remained open to feedback and fostering a relationship that is mutually beneficial for LCSD and the LEA. He fully recognizes that the LEA has specific concerns which were left lingering in the absence of permanent leadership. The officers and I will continually work on your behalf to ensure these issues are heard and articulated appropriately.

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To end, I want to wish our members approaching retirement in June and early next year an amazing end to this school year. For many, school and education have been a lifelong commitment that started in the formative years as kindergarten students and will end some 50 years later as the master educator leaving the field. Understand that your influence goes beyond the students you have engaged over the years. It goes much deeper to the staff, colleagues and union siblings who you have supported, guided and influenced along the way. Savor the final moments in your buildings and recall when it all started and why you chose this calling. Take chances to impart the value of being a public educator to the newer staff and remind them of the importance of OUR UNION! You have earned the reward at the end, and may each of you be blessed with long, happy and healthy retirements. Many cheers to each of you!

In Solidarity,
Scott

Solidarity Committee Events

4th Annual March Madness Bowling Event

Another successful bowling event this year while celebrating St. Patrick's Day! Thank you Dani and Ginny for putting these events together and for your continued dedication to bringing our union sisters and brothers together year after year!









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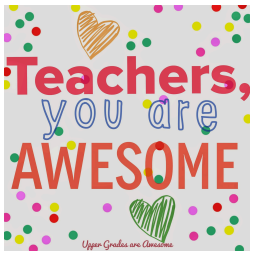
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Solidarity Event May 5th at the Ship Bar and Grill

The LEA Solidarity Committee will be hosting a celebratory happy hour on May 5th, 2023 to be held at The Ship in Pendleton, NY. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of our charter with AFT! Grab a new LEA member from your building and head down after school on May 5th! Looking forward to beautiful weather and seeing everyone there!



National Teacher Appreciation Week- May 7th-13th 2023

Teachers play a significant role in society. They are in a position to shape future leaders that will one day contribute to positive and inspirational change for generations to come. Great teachers change lives for the better. They have the ability to shape their students' young minds while pushing them to achieve goals, encouraging them to be more creative, and helping them to develop passions in life. LCSD teachers- your endless commitment to our students and the Lockport community does not go unnoticed!

School Nurse Appreciation Day- May 10th 2023

School nurses are vital in our schools to ensure all students' well-being, safety, and academic ability. School nurses are put under a lot of strain. This is because they look after a large number of pupils with complicated physical and mental health issues, as well as students who are at risk for health problems. Thank you to the LCSD school nurses that have worked tirelessly, especially throughout the pandemic, to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff!





Speech Language Pathologist Appreciation Day
May 18th 2023

SLPs are essential staff members in our elementary and secondary schools who focus on helping students with a wide range of speech–language-related problems to meet performance standards. Their work includes prevention, assessment, intervention, and program design efforts that are integrated within a school. We want to wish our LEA SLP's a wonderful Speech Language Pathologist Appreciation Day! Thank you for all you do for our students!

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Getting to Know Your Building Representatives



Name: Lori Natiella

Current building: LHS

Other buildings worked In: Washington Hunt, DeWitt Clinton, Charles Upson, AMJH, DeSales, George Southard (internship)

Years in LCSD: 26 years

Years as rep: 2 years

Why do you feel the role of the building rep is so important to our membership? My father was part of a union with his job at National Fuel so I grew up in a "union family". I was also very fortunate to be "mentored" by strong union representatives when I first started this career. They helped me understand where we used to be/how far we have come and why the union was so important. I knew that when I was able (when my children got older) I wanted to have a bigger part in the union as a rep.

Favorite LEA memory? Going to my first convention in March with LEA members from our district/all of our solidarity events

Words of wisdom for our newest members? Get to know more about the union and its importance. Give some of the senior members a chance to have a conversation about how far we have come and why the union is important.

NYSUT ELT *Courtesy of Heather Hall - GS*

Are you aware that NYSUT offers Professional Development and Graduate Level Courses for **CTLE Requirement** and **Salary Advancement**? NYSUT ELT stands for **E**ducation and **L**earning **T**rust. ELT offers courses that are applicable to **ALL TEACHERS AND STAFF**. The courses that are offered range from Advanced Professionalism (helps if you are a new Department Chair) to Mindfulness in the Classroom to Special Education for the Classroom Teacher and **MORE**! Since NYSUT ELT is a **Member Benefit**, you can take these seminars and graduate level courses at a discounted rate. With graduate level courses, **you can earn your 3 college credits in as little as a week** (Take a look at February break!)**!** These courses can also help lead to certification in ENL and SPED. NYSUT ELT courses are taught by NYSUT Members from all over the state. You can take site based courses which are offered locally or take them online/remotely. We currently have two LEA members (1 retired and 1 current) that offer classes through NYSUT ELT. Many of our LEA Brothers and Sisters have taken courses through NYSUT ELT for Certification and Salary Advancement. Members who have taken these courses always comment on how easy it is to implement the strategies and ideas into their teaching practice the very next day! If you want more information, please reach out to Heather Hall and check out the link here for information regarding Salary Advancement within the LCSD.

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Executive Vice President
Courtesy of Shawn Haley - GS

School Board Races:
We have a number of candidates who have gathered petitions with intent to run for school board. We have 3 open spots. LEA Endorsed Candidates for BOE:

Alex Lamont
Thomas J. Gray
Joseph J. Runfola II.

Also, be sure to **vote YES** (secret phrase) on the school budget!

Committee of 100 Requests:

1) Fix Tier 6: NYSUT urges the legislature to include provisions to flatten the employee pension contribution to 3 percent for all members in Tier 6 as part of the 2023-24 state budget.
2) Foundation Aid : NYSUT urges the legislature to support the executive budget proposal to provide $2.7 billion in Foundation Aid and fully fund the expense-based aids, support SED's request for $1 million to undertake a process to update the Foundation Aid formula. Also, to reject the set-aside funding for high-impact tutoring.
3) APPR: NYSUT urges the legislature to pass legislation to pause the APPR process for the current school year and restore local control by allowing school districts to either keep the APPR system that is currently in place or allow them to collectively bargain a new system that will allow them to provide accountability, make tenure decisions and provide feedback to educators.
4) Teacher Center: NYSUT urges the legislature to restore funding for Teacher Centers at $21.4 million to help provide the necessary collaboration and professional learning for educators that students deserve.
5) Higher Education (SUNY & CUNY): NYSUT urges the legislature to provide SUNY with an additional $350.5 million. Provide CUNY with an additional $333.5 million. Provide SUNY community colleges with $493.5 million in base aid. Provide CUNY community colleges with $228.87 million in base aid.
6) Charter Schools: NYSUT urges the legislature to reject the executive budget proposals that would combine the two regional caps into a single statewide cap. Enact legislation to ensure that school districts have a voice in local educational, fiscal and program matters by authorizing them to approve an initial charter school application and any subsequent renewal, modification, supplementation or revision to a charter's application. Also, to grant the Board of Regents the ability of final approval authority over all proposed/renewed charter schools. Lastly, a charter school's ability to expand grade levels beyond its current grade configurations.
7) BOCES Programs: NYSUT urges the legislature to support the executive budget proposal to establish a new $10 million High School College Workforce Transformation Grants program.
8) Special Schools: NYSUT urges the legislature to restore the $2 million cut to 4201 Schools and ensure that they receive funding-increase parity with other special education providers.

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VOTE/COPE is Needed More Than Ever, Here are the Priorities:
The 2023/24 VOTE/Cope campaign will start in May. VOTE/Cope is instrumental in leading our fight. We had 84% of our members contribute in 2022/23, let's strive to improve that percentage. The ask is $6.25 per pay for a total of $100. If every member increases by just $0.25, our contribution will increase by over $2000. We must work together as we battle these important issues. Also, 40% of our contributions are returned to the LEA for our own training, team building and school board races. VOTE/Cope contributions put us at the table instead of on the menu!

Invest in Your Profession and Invest in Your Future, Give to VOTE-COPE!!!

VP Elementary (K-6)
Courtesy of Heather Hall - GS

Thank you so much for your support throughout my term. My goal was to help members with issues in the hopes to make the district a better place. I want to thank each and every member who has helped me achieve my goal. Thank you again!



VP Secondary (7-12)
Courtesy of Lindsay Siejak - LHS

I wanted to take time in this month's newsletter to acknowledge and commend my coworkers at LHS for their courageous efforts during the lockdown on March 30th. The quick responses from our teachers and support staff to keep our students safe did not go unnoticed. While everyone may have had a different experience during the crisis, one thing was clear: every single staff member was prepared to go to any length to keep our students safe. I have never been more proud to be a part of this district. Thankful emails from parents and positive reactions from students in the days after solidified what I already knew: that our staff and community are one of a kind. The lockdown showed both strengths and weaknesses of our current security protocols and the union will continue to work with the district to ensure the safety of every student and staff member.

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Treasurer
Courtesy of Steve Young - AMJHS

Please remember to vote on the upcoming school district's budget (no matter what school district in which you reside) and for your school district's Board of Education members. Stay tuned to the LEA website and your personal Gmail address for information on school board candidates that are endorsed by the local teacher unions.

On a completely different topic, I am always looking to enhance the LEA website so please view it at your convenience and make any suggestions to me for enhancements.

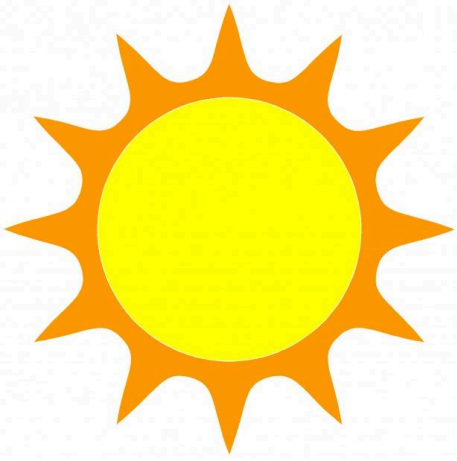
As always, please do not hesitate to contact Steve Young with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the LEA's Treasury or the LEA website.

Steve Young, LEA Treasurer & LEA Webmaster
(716) 417-1499
SYoungLEA2794@gmail.com

Executive Secretary
Courtesy of Cheryl Larkin - EBIS

Remember to take a look at the April Wellness Calendar for some great ideas of how to get outside, make healthy choices and take time for yourself.

There has been positive feedback from the NYSUT Peer Support Line. Follow the link for additional information and support!



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CHECK OUT ALL YOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP HAS TO OFFER!



When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at ***memberbenefits.nysut.org***. There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the "Shopping, Travel & Personal" section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, car rentals, theme parks, vehicle maintenance, and much more.

Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting *memberbenefits.nysut.org* or calling 800-626-8101.

MEMBER BENEFITS nysut 40 years of working to benefit you 1983 2023

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

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NOTES BEARING INTEREST

Lockport Schools Federal Credit Union
360 South Transit Street; Lockport, NY 14094

716-433-7740
Spring 2023



Home Equity
Line of Credit
2.00%
12 month intro rate!
For qualified borrowers.

Refinance your
Auto Loan
with LSFCU,
if we can't beat your
rate, we'll match it!
(State restrictions apply)





A little help when you lose
your balance.
Overdraft protection from
LSFCU

April is Youth Month at LSFCU!



Members under 18 that open an account or make a deposit during April will be entered into a drawing for a cash prize!
Want your kids to gain an understanding of the value of money that will set them on a path to future financial security? Help them develop a savings habit. As your credit union, we want to help you teach your children to learn good financial habits.
Together we can help them toward a bright and wondrous future.

Spring CD Specials:

9 month certificate
3.00% APY*



6 month certificate
4.50% APY*
($100K+)

*Minimum of $1,000.00 new money

Web site: www.lockportschoolsfcu.org **E-mail:** memserv@lockportschoolsfcu.org

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Credit Union HOURS

Monday thru Friday
9:30AM - 4:30PM

Office Telephone
716-433-7740

April 3rd - April 7th
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

www.lockportschoolsfcu.org

We will be Closed
Monday, May 29th

IN HONOR OF
MEMORIAL DAY

We will be Closed
Monday, June 19th

IN HONOR OF JUNETEENTH

DIVIDENDS
(Annual Percentage Yield)
(Quarter ending March 31, 2023)

Minimum Balance Share Accts.	
$500 - $1,999.99	0.10 %
$2,000 - $4,999.99	0.15 %
$5,000 - $19,999.99	0.15 %
$20,000 and up	0.25 %
Share Draft Accounts	0.01%
I.R.A. Share Accounts	0.30 %

Check our website for current rates on Share Certificates.
(Rates subject to change by your Board of Directors)

Thank you to all that participated in our survey, we are so grateful to have such amazing members!

Nearly half of the 117 survey takers heard about us through a referral from a colleague, showing that our best resource is **YOU** through word of mouth. Here are some of the great things you said:


Jodi Brown, Survey Winner
Membership established 1993

"I love the friendly atmosphere it really feels like everyone is looking out for my best interest."

"Easy access, friendly employees, atmosphere"

"Everyone is extremely knowledgeable, friendly and willing to help."

"The service. Personal service where I feel someone is watching out for me."

"Great job...awesome service···Keep up the exceptional work"

"Very personable bank, feels like family when you walk in. Can't wait to see the new building! Congratulations!"

"I've been a member for at least 50 years, ever since they had a little hole in the wall office at the high school. If I remember correctly it was originally a ticket booth for plays and basketball games. Ever since I joined they have always been there with whatever I needed help with."

"I support the Lockport Schools Federal Credit Union and encourage all my friends to get involved."

"I'm a retired Lockport teacher and have moved out of the area. We have kept out account there because of the quality of service and the ability to do internet banking."

"I feel very lucky to have LSFCU, I try to recruit new members any chance I get. Thank YOU!"

"You've been our (only) bank for decades after leaving all the other banks we had been doing business with – the reason for that is simple – LSFCU has always been there for us, and we feel a part of the family/community!"

–Save the Date–

Our Annual Meeting/Picnic is scheduled for July 19th! Watch your email for details.

the LAST Word

An investment in knowledge pays the best interest. –Benjamin Franklin