



# Lockport Education Association

## January/February 2023 Newsletter

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



[www.lockportlea.org](http://www.lockportlea.org)



### President's Update...

*Courtesy of Scott Reddinger - LHS*

Sisters and Brothers,

Over six months ago, right after our new four year collective bargaining agreement was ratified and signed, the LCSD community received news that our Superintendent of Schools would be retiring. The news brought a mixed bag of responses from our membership, but highlighted the next area of focus for the LEA. *How would we help to influence and drive the selection of our next district leader?*

Initial inquiries to the individual charged with running the search, Dr. Clark Godshall of O/N BOCES, were met with resistance. However, in collaboration with the Lockport Service Employees Association (LSEA) and Lockport Administrators and Supervisors Association (LASA), the LEA approached the Board of Education to express the necessity of being a larger part of the process and making sure that our collective voices were heard, respected, and considered.

In early October, the LEA officers and our immediate past President were provided with an opportunity to meet with members of the Board of Education and our Interim Superintendent. At that meeting, the LEA provided a detailed picture of the concerns we had, the characteristics we wanted to see in the next Superintendent, and our hopes for further participation in the interview process. I thank the many members who completed the survey to assist us in this process.

Over the months of November and December, applications were accepted for the position and sorted through by the Board of Education. Initial rounds of interviews were conducted confidentially and the field narrowed to three finalists. As President of the LEA, I received notification in late December that the LEA would be provided a seat at the table with other stakeholders for the finalist interviews. Of significance was that our stakeholders group would be afforded the opportunity to interview the candidates without any district administration present, or LCSD Board of Education members.

For each candidate, the LEA presented multi-step questions that articulated our membership concerns. These questions originated from our survey to membership in October, and were ranked and voted on by the LEA officers. At the conclusion of each candidate's interview, our stakeholders group would rate the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates and provide them to the Board of Education.



**LEA**

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At the conclusion of three days of interviews, it was very clear to our stakeholders group that a strong candidate had emerged and risen to the top. The personality, educational pedigree, vision, and responses to our questions highlighted the consensus that Dr. Calvin was the right person for the position. As your representative at the table, I will tell you I was extremely pleased with the process we followed, the questions we were allowed to ask, and the candidate that was selected in the end by the Lockport Board of Education.

I eagerly look forward to getting back to doing the work of the LEA with a leader who is prepared to work with us. During the last few weeks I arranged communications with the union leadership of his former district and gathered insight into how we might best forge ahead with Dr. Calvin.

As always, my greatest thanks goes to the members of the LEA who took the time to be a part of the process. To answer the surveys, provide feedback, ask critical questions and engage in the efforts to make our jobs, and the education of our students just a little bit better.

In Solidarity,  
Scott





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### **4th Annual LEA March Madness Bowling Event- March 17, 2022 3pm**

- Allie Brandt Bowling Lanes- pizza and wings will be provided!
- Cost is \$9 per person- shoes are included.
- Be on the lookout for the Google Form to Sign Up! Hope to see you there!

### **National Social Worker's Week- March 5th-11th 2023**

School social workers help students deal with mental health and behavioral challenges and provide academic and classroom support. They also help in developing education policies, work with crisis interventions, and identify and report child neglect and abuse. Thank you to the LCSD social workers that have answered the call of duty and work tirelessly each day to provide our students with the compassion and support they so desperately need!



### **School Librarian Appreciation Day- April 4th 2023**

This day is observed to recognize the professionals who keep school libraries well-stocked and the books in perfect order. School librarians spend long hours keeping the library organized. They are also likely to be the first people to help students find the resources they need to learn. We want to wish our LEA librarians a Happy School Librarian Appreciation Day! Thank you for all you do for our students!





LEA

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### Getting to Know Your Building Representatives



**Name:** Dani Hagen

**Current building:** LHS

**Other buildings worked In:** AMJHS

**Years in LCSD:** 21

**Years as rep:** 16

**Why do you feel the role of the building rep is so important to our membership?**

To make sure the interests of my fellow union members are represented and defended. Also you are a link for information between admin and LEA members in the building.

**Do you have a favorite LEA memory?**

My favorite times are seeing the participation at our social events grow each year and seeing more and more new members joining in on the fun times.

**Any words of wisdom for our newest members?**

BE INVOLVED and INFORMED



**Name:** Teresa Niver

**Current building:** AM

**Other buildings worked In:** None

**Years in LCSD:** 15

**Years as rep:** 6

**Why do you feel the role of the building rep is so important to our membership?**

I ran for building rep because I thought I had learned a lot from those that came before me and it was time I took a leadership role in our building. I've enjoyed helping be a voice for my colleagues and our students. Anna Merritt has been my community since the start of my career in Lockport. I'm very passionate about our school. This role gave me an opportunity to represent it in a new way.

**Do you have a favorite LEA memory?**

I met my husband at the End-of-the-Year LEA party at the Holiday Inn in 2010! Shout out to all the LEA (and former LEA) members that helped us meet that night: Erika O'Brien, Kelly Harrer, Shawn Haley, Paul Zuccari, Joe Flaherty, Jodi Brown, Kim Lockie, Kelly Scott, Anne Oliphant, Kim VanSchoonhoven, Wendy Lederhaus, Jackie Doyle, and Stan Wilson.

**Any words of wisdom for our newest members?**

Take inspiration from others around you. My best teaching has come from others I have met along the way.



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**Executive Vice President**  
*Courtesy of Shawn Haley - GS*

### **NYSUT Has an Ambitious Legislative Agenda**

NYSUT is looking to expand on our victories from 2022. The top of that list continues to be fixing Tier 6 (and 5). Last year, we were able to cut the vesting time from 10 years to 5 for these members. This year we will continue the fight to fix Tier 6 (and 5). NYSUT is also pushing for:

#### **Safe Schools for All**

We are seeking:

- Access to more mental health professionals
- Union representatives on school safety committees
- Passage of the School Workplace Violence Protection Act

#### **Higher Education**

We are seeking:

- Additional \$350 million each for SUNY and CUNY for mental health professionals
- \$440 million in base aid for SUNY community colleges and \$230 million in base aid to CUNY community colleges

#### **Other Priorities**

We are seeking:

- Reform APPR to restore local control over teacher evaluations
- Eliminate the receivership process
- Build on the success of the NYC class size bill and expand statewide
- Continue the fight against the expansion of charter schools and enact reforms to hold them accountable
- Ensure that year three of fully funding Foundation Aid actually occurs

I will be going to Albany in early March to participate in the Committee of 100. We will be meeting with elected officials in an effort to gain support for our legislative initiatives. This fight is our fight! It doesn't happen without a united front from our over 600,000 members statewide. As we look ahead, our VOTE/Cope campaign will be starting this spring. VOTE/Cope funds are crucial to our ability to fight for the rights of all our members. Stay tuned for more legislative updates. Our VOTE/Cope campaign will kick off in a few short months.





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### VP Elementary (K-6)

*Courtesy of Heather Hall - GS*

As the school year continues, be mindful of your rights from our CBA. Student behavior and lack of consequences has kept the LEA busy with corresponding with administrators. Should you feel that a student should have consequences be sure to reference the Lockport City Schools Code of Conduct along with our CBA Article IV, Section E. Be sure when asking for a suspension, you detail the offense in entirety. If you are in any way harmed, be sure to file an incident report which you can get from the Nurse at your building.

On a lighter note, the winner of our secret phrase for the November/December newsletter is Katrina Szucs from EB!!!! Be sure to find the secret phrase and email either myself or Lindsay Siejak to be entered into a drawing for a Starbucks Gift Card!

#11 EVER SIBLINGS



### VP Secondary (7-12)

*Courtesy of Lindsay Siejak - LHS*

We have had a number of exciting opportunities in early 2023 for our TALAT club. In January, we met to discuss the new Education Academy at LHS that puts students on a pathway focused on pursuing a career in the education field. Students will participate in a variety of classes, along with an internship to culminate the experience their senior year. LCSD graduate, Lea Sobieraski, also attended our January meeting to discuss an opportunity at the Kenan Center this spring. "Coaching for the Future" is a 10 week coaching and mentoring program that will provide leadership and vocational skills to high school students.

Additional activities our TALAT students are participating in this month include assisting at a "Family Night" at GS as well as at the "Sweetheart Dance" hosted by RBK. We will be going to Emmet Belknap in March to lend a helping hand in a variety of classrooms!

Teacher: Anyone have any questions?

Students: No

Teacher: Alright, go ahead and get started.

\*Students one minute later:





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### Treasurer

*Courtesy of Steve Young - AMJHS*

### Executive Secretary

*Courtesy of Cheryl Larkin - EBIS*

Now that 2022 has come to an end, people will likely begin to think about filing their taxes. Of the almost 530 current LEA (secret phrase) members, there are a total of 21 different amounts that members contributed in union dues for the 2022 calendar year. The two reasons why everyone's is not the same are:

Work and Life Balance is so important. Please read Heather Scharping's January Newsletter attached in the link [here](#).



1. The dues category in which members fall. There are three different dues categories; full dues, three-quarters dues, and split dues. The category in which members fall is solely based upon their annualized salary.
2. The amount of days in which a member was paid. This includes members who were hired after the first pay date of the 2022 calendar year (specifically 01/14/2022) as well as members who had taken an unpaid leave.

I have linked [this PDF file](#) that is my personal paystub from 12/30/2022 (with some of the information redacted) to help you find the exact amount that you - specifically YOU - contributed in union dues for the 2022 calendar year.

**Please be sure to look at your pay stub from the specific date of 12/30/2022.** In addition, many members often wonder what each of the acronyms and abbreviations represent on their pay stub. Please refer to [this linked PDF file](#) for assistance with that.

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

**Steve Young**

(716) 417-1499

[SYoungLEA2794@gmail.com](mailto:SYoungLEA2794@gmail.com)



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## Check out all your union membership has to offer!

### LEGAL SERVICE PLAN

Plan benefits include:

- Crucial estate planning documents (a Simple Will, Health Care Proxy, Living Will & Durable Power of Attorney)
- Free telephone consultations
- Guaranteed maximum fees for specific legal matters

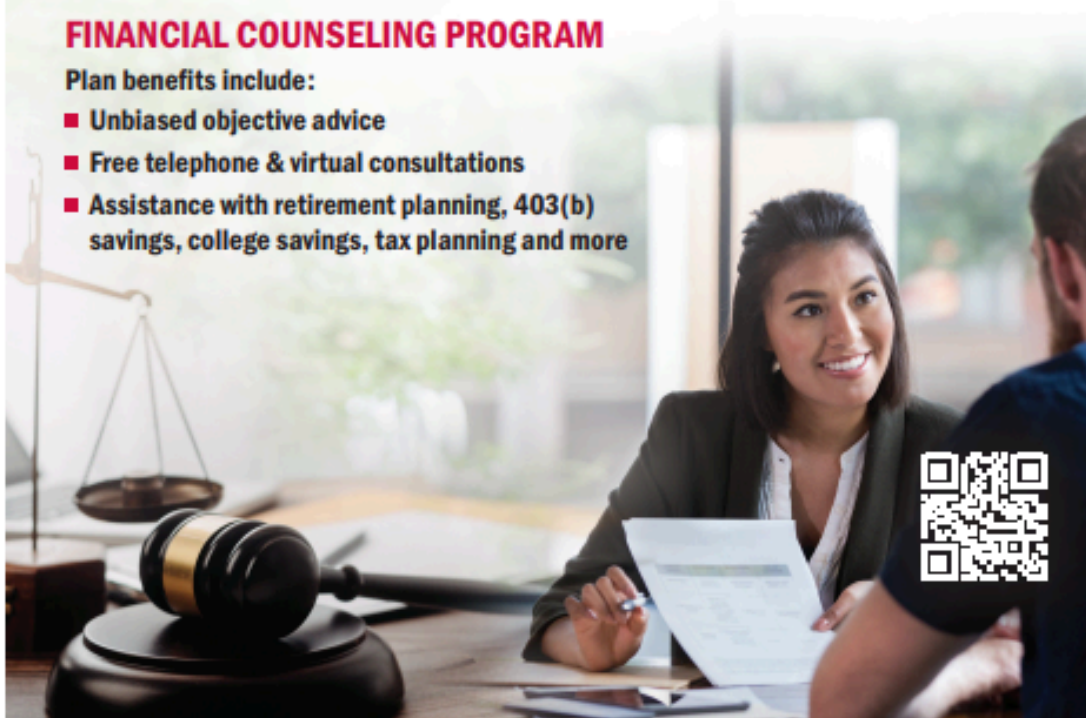
### MEMBER BENEFITS



### FINANCIAL COUNSELING PROGRAM

Plan benefits include:

- Unbiased objective advice
- Free telephone & virtual consultations
- Assistance with retirement planning, 403(b) savings, college savings, tax planning and more



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the right,  
visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org)  
or calling **800-626-8101**.

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

Jan-Feb 2023





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### NOTES BEARING INTEREST

#### Lockport Schools Federal Credit Union

360 South Transit Street; Lockport, NY 14094

716-433-7740

Winter 2022 - 2023

Home Banking Login

Username

Login

#### Repay is available now on our website!

Make payments to your LSFCU loans or deposit funds into your LSFCU accounts from other financial institutions! You can use your debit card or routing and account numbers from another account.

*Funds will be posted the following business day.*

#### Live Chat is now available online!

On our Facebook page and on our website [www.lockportschoolsfcu.org](http://www.lockportschoolsfcu.org) during business hours. You will have the option to leave a message after hours.

*Live Chat is not available on our mobile app.*



New Year, new projects.  
Considering a Home Equity?  
*Call Tammy or Molly to find out more.*

You're Worth a Grand or Two loans  
are still going!

*Apply online today!*

Offer valid until January 31, 2023.  
Some restrictions apply.



#### Thanks To Our VOLUNTEERS

We have the best Board of Directors!

They spend hours reviewing policies and determining the best course of action for the credit union, they even assist in the office when we are short staffed!

We are very grateful to have them.

#### Seasonal Reminders:

**SNOW DAYS** – If the schools are closed due to weather, we will close only if the roads are too hazardous for our staff to travel. Please check [www.lockportschoolsfcu.org](http://www.lockportschoolsfcu.org) or call **716-433-7740** on school snow days to verify that we are open.

**HOME BANKING AND E-STATEMENTS** – Convenient way to manage your accounts online! Sign up today! Call the office at **433-7740** or visit [www.lockportschoolsfcu.org](http://www.lockportschoolsfcu.org) for more information.

### Helping District Families In Need

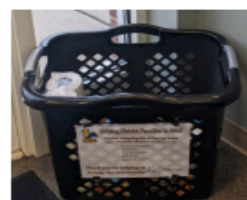


LSFCU

Lockport Schools  
Federal Credit Union

We are accepting the following items for district families in need:

- Basic necessities
- Toiletries
- Non perishables
- Gift cards
- Paper products



*Thank you for helping us to help the community!*

Web site: [www.lockportschoolsfcu.org](http://www.lockportschoolsfcu.org)

E-mail: [memserv@lockportschoolsfcu.org](mailto:memserv@lockportschoolsfcu.org)



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### **Contact**

#### Regular Hours

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

#### Recess Hours

February 21<sup>st</sup> - February 24<sup>th</sup>  
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

#### Office Closed

Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>  
Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>

#### Office Telephone

716-433-7740

#### Fax

716-433-7757

#### Online

[www.lockportschoolsfcu.org](http://www.lockportschoolsfcu.org)

#### E-mail

[memserv@lockportschoolsfcu.org](mailto:memserv@lockportschoolsfcu.org)

#### **DEBIT CARDS LOST OR STOLEN**

1-800-453-4270

#### **Fee Schedule**

Please see the rate page on the website for updates.

#### **DIVIDENDS**

(Annual Percentage Yield)  
(Quarter ending December 31, 2022)

##### Minimum Balance Share Accts.

\$100 - \$1,999.99	0.05 %
\$2,000 - \$4,999.99	0.10 %
\$5,000 - \$19,999.99	0.10 %
\$20,000 and up	0.15 %
Share Draft Accounts	0.01%
I.R.A. Share Accounts	0.30 %

Call the office for Share Certificates and I.R.A. Certificates current rates.

(Rates subject to change by your Board of Directors)

## Fall Promo Results



**Holly Arlington**

Winner of the

*Your Family is Our Family Promotion*



**Brian Wilson**

Winner of the

*Payday Promotion*

## International Credit Union Day



**the LAST Word**

"Follow your passion; it will lead you to your purpose." — Oprah Winfrey