

VC ECHOES

Volume 12, Issue 3

Valley Central Teachers' Association

December, 2009

MAYBROOK TAKES VIKING VANGOGH!



2 IN A ROW FOR MAYBROOK ELEMENTARY!

See back cover for more photos from Fall Fest!

There are no greater advocates for children and education than teachers and teacher unions.

Valley Central Teachers' Association

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Contribute to the next issue!

**Articles or
Letters to the Editor
should be sent to
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20 January, 2010**

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The VC Echoes is the official publication of the Valley Central Teachers' Association—Local 3076—and is published regularly during the school year. Any articles submitted to the VC Echoes will also be posted on the VCTA web site.

*VC Echoes is
a NYSUT
and AFT
Award-
winning
Publication!*



**Members
Take Note...**



**Don't Forget:
Open Enrollment
Ends December 23rd!**

Be sure to submit
paperwork if you wish
to change insurance.

Go to www.vcta.net for
health rates and more
information.

MS Teacher's Artwork Selected for Special Show

Kathy Foti (Middle School, Art) wanted to give something back to the Maria Ferari Children's Hospital which has meant so much to her. Kathy submitted a 12"x12" acrylic painting of an adult hand holding a child's hand with the sun setting in the background for a special art show at the Maria Ferari Children's Hospital located in Westchester NY. Her submission was more than just a chance to show a piece of artwork. One of the criteria to be considered for the show was that the artist had to be a patient or the parent of a patient. Kathy fit both criteria. She was operated on in the children's wing of the Westchester Medical Center which later became the Children's hospital and last year her one-year old daughter underwent surgery at the hospital.

When Kathy heard about the contest she knew she had to enter. As Kathy stated, "I wanted to give something back to this hospital which was so wonderful to me when I underwent my operation as a young adult. And, last year they were just as wonderful to me as the parent of a child and took such good care of my daughter and our family. There was no question I would enter the contest. It was an opportunity to do something for this institution which has meant so much to me."

Foti was happy to have her painting among those selected for the show. The show opened September 12th and is on display in the main lobby of the hospital. This is Kathy's eleventh year teaching art at the Middle School.

—Patti Lunden, HS Art, VCTA VP



Kathy Foti, MS Art Teacher, and her two daughters at the art show at Maria Ferari Children's Hospital. Foti's artwork is on the top row.



In the News...

This issue's column focuses on current developments that affect teachers throughout New York State. In this installment of In the News..., VCTA President Tim Brown summarizes and comments on issues discussed in New York Teacher 11/26/09, The Progress Report 11/12/09 and in the AFT's E-activist newsletter.



*Brown Tackles
the Issues*

Hungry Children: According to the AFT's e-Activist, nearly 17 million U.S. children will be at risk for hunger during the school year. Symptoms of chronic hunger include headaches, stomachaches, lethargy and poor concentration. Many students have no food or no nutritious food from the time they leave school until they return the following morning. This, of course, makes school breakfast and lunch programs even more crucial during this time of recession. The reality of hungry American children should be relegated to history books, not current events. Each district should pull out all stops to make the free lunch/breakfast program more accessible and less stigmatizing to our most needy children. Perhaps an investment in card readers so that school IDs could actually have a practical and legitimate purpose would symbolize true compassion for our hungry students whose parents may be temporarily unemployed and/or disabled due to injuries. Scanning IDs for breakfast and lunch would allow for anonymized identification of our free and reduced lunch recipients, removing their perceived stigma while simultaneously bringing needed aid to our meal program.

PREVENTABLE DEATHS (The Progress Report, 11/12/2009): In 2008, 1.46 million veterans between ages 18 and 64 went without health insurance and 2,200 veterans died due

"Although cuts in difficult economic times are generally inevitable, mid-year cuts are essentially reneging on previous promises."

to a lack of health care. A 2003 decision limited VA eligibility: "Veterans whose injuries are not related to their service or whose income is above a certain threshold are assigned low care priorities—providing them with less consistent care for which they have to pay a larger out-of-pocket fee. As authors of the Harvard

study noted, uninsured vets are 'like other uninsured Americans': working people who are 'too poor to afford private coverage but not poor enough to qualify for Medicaid or means-tested VA care.'" Add to this the fact that 1 in 5 Iraq and Afghanistan vets suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder for which only half receive treatment, suicides among active duty soldiers are at a 30 year high and vets account for up to 25% of all homeless Americans. Health care—who needs it? Who gets it? Who doesn't get it? The truth is, any of us could be one paycheck away from losing it. NOTE: The current administration has pledged to reverse the 2003 decision that limited VA benefits and directly address the above issues with appropriate support.

H1N1: The AFT has developed a 4-minute animated video called "How To Think Like a Scientist: H1N1." This video is age appropriate for middle-school students through adults and can be viewed at www.aft.org/topics/h1n1/video.htm.

State of the School Economy (NYT, 11/26/2009, p 3): Governor Paterson's proposed mid-year cuts to education and health care exceed \$1 billion. Although cuts in difficult economic times are generally inevitable, mid-year cuts are essentially reneging on previous promises. NYS education was already delivered a blow by the governor and Legislature when they "failed to keep the promise to deliver the funding our courts ordered (cont'd on pg 5)

In the News... Cont'd from pg 4)

to ensure every child's constitutional right to a quality education..." High-need districts and, of course, districts that historically operate at bare-bones on a yearly basis will generally feel the most pain. To date, Governor Patterson refuses to release the state's \$1.5 billion "rainy day fund" to address funding shortfalls; however, Patterson "...suggested most school districts would be able to absorb any school aid cuts by using *their* reserve funds."

Silence is Golden and Sometimes Yellow

(NYT, 11/26/2009): Silence, often seen as golden, can also be cowardly. Social justice does not take place when injustice is met with silence. NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer Lee Cutler highlighted this concept in the NYT: "I would argue that we are not fulfilling our role

as keepers of a democracy when we subtly and not so subtly discourage our students from speaking out when they see injustice...silence is appropriate in certain situations, but silence to injustice is unacceptable." The personal or civil rights of every individual within this country can be at risk whenever caring people do not speak out in the face of injustice. Silence to injustice often creates a perception of acceptance, which can nurture and promote intolerance.

—Tim Brown, HS Health, VCTA President

Pallotta Elected Executive Vice-President

Andrew Pallotta, a veteran New York City public school educator and United Federation of Teachers leader, has been elected executive vice president of New York State United Teachers by the union's Board of Directors. Pallotta, who as a UFT district representative in the Bronx represented 57 local school chapters, will head NYSUT's legislative and political action department. He succeeds Alan Lubin, who will retire in January after serving more than 16 years in the post.

NYSUT President Richard C. Iannuzzi said he is confident that, under Pallotta's leadership, NYSUT will continue to build upon the record of success achieved during Lubin's tenure.

"Andy is the right choice for these tough times, and his experience, dedication and temperament will be an asset to the union," Iannuzzi said. "He will be a strong and clear voice for our members as we continue our work in protecting and defending public education, vital programs and services, and the professions which NYSUT represents."

"The challenges are many," said Pal-

lotta. "But we have a great organization at NYSUT with high ideals and values. With the involvement of our engaged members, I'm confident we will move our agenda of public education and health care forward. I've always believed in hard work and going that extra mile, and I want to accomplish great things for NYSUT members and the communities they serve."

Pallotta, an art and physical education teacher at PS 32 in the Fordham section of the Bronx, has spent 24 years in the classroom. As the UFT's District 10 representative since September 2006, Pallotta served extensively in a wide range of negotiating, lobbying, political outreach and community-relations roles. He also has served as a delegate to NYSUT, UFT and American Federation of Teachers conventions and as a member of the UFT Executive Board.

Lubin's retirement will cap a distinguished career that spanned more than four decades as a teacher and union leader with both the UFT and NYSUT.

—NYSUT Media Relations - 12/7/2009

Summary—Midyear Special Legislative Session

The Senate and Assembly approved a \$2.7 billion deficit reduction plan. There will be no midyear cuts to “operating aid for schools.” However, this was achieved “in part by drawing down \$391 million of the federal stimulus dollars earmarked for Year Two.” Grant based programs such as Teacher Centers (\$4 million) and Library Aid (\$4.2 million) “will be subject to a 12.5 percent cut of ‘unexpended funds.’” The Legislature’s victory over the governor’s desire to initiate midyear cuts demonstrates understanding and sensitivity on their part regarding the devastation that these proposed executive midyear cuts would have had on programming and local taxes. Although the reduction plan and early use of the federal stimulus dollars will eventually have devastating consequences for public schools, the ability to plan and have a voice in how this pain will be shared and/or implemented on a local level represents a more ethical approach to dealing with the state’s budget deficit than did the governor’s proposed last minute midyear cuts.

To add further controversy, the governor has threatened to ignore the Legislature and the legal fiscal procedures of NYS by withholding school funding during the current year as he sees fit. In a letter released on December 5th, Governor Patterson stated the following: “Because certain legislators are unwilling to stand up and control spending for fear of the political consequences, I will move forward and implement the tough choices they were unwilling to make. In the coming days, I will direct the Division of the Budget to reduce State aid payments administratively in order to balance the budget and prevent New York from running out of cash. I do not take this action lightly, but there is no other responsible path. If the Legislature will not do what is necessary, I will take the difficult actions that are needed to restore our State’s fiscal integrity.”

Other scheduled education cuts include \$90 million to SUNY that had been announced before the midyear special legislative session.

A \$53 million cut to CUNY may be offset by an existing \$29 million dollar reserve fund. The governor’s \$34 million proposed cut to community colleges was negotiated down to \$15.7 million.

With regard to the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) and the Employee Retirement System (ERS), a new Tier 5 will take effect January 1, 2010. TRS changes include:

- 57 minimum retirement age with 30 years of service;
- 10 years of service for vesting (up from 5 years);
- 3.5% lifetime pension contribution (up from 3% for 10 years);
- 2% final average salary calculation at 25 years of service (up from 20 years).

ERS changes include (this includes VCTA secretarial and paraprofessional units):

- 62 minimum retirement age with 10 years of service;
- 55 retirement age with 10 years of service with reduced benefits;
- 10 years of service for vesting (up from 5 years);
- 3% lifetime pension contribution (up from 3% for 10 years).

There is some positive news regarding retirement as well. The integrity of the defined benefit plan was maintained as well as the continuation of a permanent cost of living allowance (COLA) for all future retirees. Two new retiree additions include an agreement that “permanently protects retiree health insurance from being diminished unless in-service members negotiate a reduction in their own health insurance as well” and a 55/25 early retirement incentive. This incentive will be offered during a three month window during 2010 and is expected to be at the employee’s election, rather than being subject to an employer’s authorization.

—Tim Brown, HS Health, VCTA President
(The above summary material was provided by NYSUT legislative department.)

Turkey-Cow Union Cooperation Is Not Without Consequences: Are Chickens Being Targeted?

Union organizing efforts have paid off. Cows and Turkeys have now joined forces to form a formidable union that should effectively advance their collective agenda (i.e., staying alive). This merger has been heralded as the new CTU (Cow-Turkey Union). Chickens, however, are calling this the Chicken Terrorism Unit and claim that CTU's agenda is nothing less than the extermination of chicken brothers and sisters everywhere, whether they be Leghorn, Buckeye, New Hampshire Red or Rhode Island White.

"No chicken is safe," said Foghorn Leghorn, the official spokesman for this currently unrepresented and, according to Leghorn, "unappreciated poultry class." Leghorn indicated that a chicken request to join CTU was summarily rejected by the CTU executive council earlier this year; however, Leghorn has not yet received an official answer regarding a recently submitted petition to join NYSUT and the AFT. Leghorn believes these powerful state and national AFL-CIO affiliates will provide his brothers and sisters with the protections necessary to counteract the "hopefully, unintended after-effects of the Cows' and Turkeys' Political Action Campaign." Foghorn continued to share his disillusionment over chickens being targeted by other oppressed groups. "The cows and turkeys are throwing us under the bus. Sacrificing another species to protect one's own hind-quarters or one's own tail feathers is reprehensible," said Foghorn. "How can one species specifically name another to

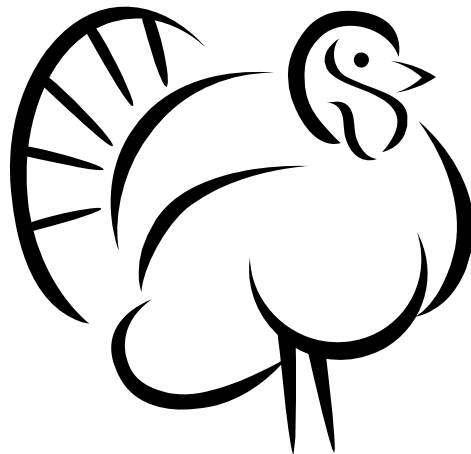
take its place on the chopping block? Why name chickens? Why not ducks, goats or sheep? Why not ROADKILL?"

The lack of response from NYSUT and AFT representatives has left many chickens nervous and fearful. A possible reason for NYSUT's delay in responding to the chickens' request for union organizing is the Board of Directors concern over the impact that chartering this new local could have on the menu at this year's Representative Assembly in Washington DC. "Chicken is the entrée of choice among most of our members," said NYSUT

President Richard Ianuzzi. "Before a final decision can be reached, the Board of Directors and NYSUT delegates must consider all of the potential ramifications of either accepting or rejecting the request of this newly organized poultry class."

At odds with a favorable outcome for union support of the chicken poultry class are the traditions and expectations that each NYSUT member brings to the annual RA.

According to NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer Lee Cutler, food, rest and entertainment are necessary prerequisites to a happy, productive and respectful assembly. These prerequisites can be symbolized as a three legged stool. Eliminating chicken as a food choice could effectively weaken one of these important supports. Cutler said that "...a hungry crowd is very seldom happy, productive or respectful. Teachers become particularly difficult when confronted with change. Teachers have the appetites of Hobbits, the sleeping habits of hibernating bears and the party mentality of high school seniors and/or freshman college students. (cont'd on page 8)



Turkey-Cow (cont'd from pg 7)

Add to this a mere five percent tolerance rate for change as documented on the 3TCT (Teacher Tolerance To Change Threshold) and there exists a potential formula for disaster at this year's DC RA. It is possible," continued Cutler, "that chickens may need to be sacrificed to ensure order and productivity among current members. The choice may be as simple as feed on chicken or feed on each other."

When asked for any final comments, Foghorn Leghorn wished all NYSUT members a Happy Thanksgiving and would like to remind everyone of the many dietary options that are available to each of us every day as Christmas meals are planned. "After all," said Leghorn, "many things taste just like chicken." Foghorn Leghorn will address the NYSUT Representative Assembly on Friday night, immediately following Barak Obama's address, in an attempt to win over this fickle carnivorous NYSUT crowd.

—*Tim Brown, HS Health, VCTA President*
(NOTE: No animals were killed or injured for this spoof. Thanksgiving, however, was a different matter.)



"Sacred Cow" to the Slaughter

Over the past many weeks, I have read several articles discussing the dire fiscal situation New York State faces where healthcare and education are referred to as "sacred cows." The term implies that these institutions are above reproach and cannot be questioned. Most frequently, it is politicians who are throwing out the phrase when hitting their talking points.

Governor Paterson used the term recently in an interview with CBS radio: "So, since health care and education are the sort of sacred cows of Albany, no one ever wants to cut them. People are afraid of the reaction from the special interests that support them, but these two areas comprise 55 percent of our spending. So, it would be almost impossible not to include them in deficit reduction."

The governor is not entirely wrong. New York must practice fiscal restraint and responsibility in order to avoid financial ruin. Reducing the deficit is important. Why is it though, that education and healthcare are referred to as "sacred cows?"

As a teacher, I find it absurd to suggest that education has ever been so revered an institution that it is exempt from questioning and critical analysis. In fact, it has an enormous target on its back when political hatchets are bared and is constantly criticized both by politicians and the general populace. Unfunded mandates imposed on school districts throughout the country cause undue hardship on teachers, students, and taxpayers alike.

The most frustrating part of this: unfunded mandates are enacted (cont'd on pg 9)

“Sacred Cow” to the Slaughter (cont’d from pg 8)

by politicians, like Governor Paterson. The governor’s answer: “I will announce the specific local assistance reductions I will implement unilaterally.” Yes, folks, you read that correctly. Perhaps we have found the source of the governor’s disdain for education: teachers in New York did not teach Mr. Paterson much about democracy and how it is supposed to work.

The governor is understandably and rightly concerned with the state’s cash flow or lack thereof. However, cuts to education and healthcare will result in untold numbers of layoffs. The largest source of government revenue is taxes. Income and sales taxes are generally the two largest sources of this revenue. Does unilaterally cutting funding to the “sacred cows” of education and healthcare do anything to provide a long-term solution to New York’s problem of negative revenues? It is a stopgap measure at best and political posturing at worst. The victims: students and taxpayers. Schools will have to make up at least some of the difference on the backs of the taxpayers, some of whom will have just lost their jobs.

To me, referring to education and healthcare as “sacred cows” is offensive and insulting. Not to mention inaccurate. If politicians placed as much value on education as they profess to, this would not even be an issue as they would address the real problem of how to best fund schools. The property tax system is not doing the job for our students or our citizenry. Unfortunately, we are talking about the same politicians who decided that it was a great idea to spend millions of dollars for several years in a row to refund tax money that New Yorkers had already paid.

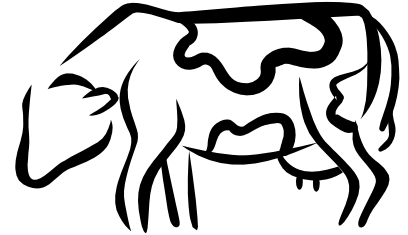
The real “sacred cow” in Albany, Mr. Paterson, is actually pork. According to ABC, pork projects as of February 2009 totaled \$300 million. Much of this is in the form of grants that politicians distribute among groups and organizations who donate to their campaigns. Has Paterson issued an edict of unilateral action against pork pet projects of the legislators

he seems to respect so much? After asking state employees to give up their 3% increases last year, he quietly ap-

proved raises ranging from 5-46% for his staffers. Though this is admittedly not a substantial amount of money in the grand scheme of New York’s problems, the hypocrisy is glaring.

I am sadly reminded of attending the district’s CABC meetings last year. Most notably, the session where our administrators were forced to lay out some possible cuts and changes to try and offset rising costs and flat aid. I remember being horrified that behind those sheets of paper were kids, friends, and colleagues. I also remember thinking about my friend’s classroom, where you can actually stick your hand outside through the gap between the window and its casement. A district like Valley Central, which works hard to do right by its taxpayers and keep costs as low as possible while maintaining academic excellence, will be especially devastated by cuts in aid. Our communities cannot afford to make up the difference and our children will suffer for it.

New York needs real, lasting solutions. Education and healthcare should not always be the go-to sacrificial lambs. Both are essential to all citizens. A fact which history has shown time and again. The implications of drastic cuts to these two areas will be felt for years to come. The “sacred cow” we call education is not funded properly now. How can it withstand cuts? What will the consequences be for our kids when aid checks do not go out on December 15th? Governor Paterson, please try to become part of the solution, instead of unilaterally creating more problems.



—Meghan Rilley, HS, Social Studies

How Far Have We Come?

We are about to embark on the final year of the first decade of the 21st century. As this time of year brings thoughts of auld lang syne, I thought it would be interesting to take a look at some of the educational issues we faced at the turn of the millennium. Remember when we were worried about Y2K and whether our computers would still be connected on January 1, 2000?

What I found is that we really have not come so far, baby. It was the introduction of the standards movement so there was much being said about teaching to tests and how we have to resist that. The question is, have we? Or have test scores become the criteria by which education is micromanaged locally, statewide and nationally? Do we worry about teaching kids to think so they can lead and succeed in the 21st century or do we just worry about teaching kids to score well enough to make a 3 or 4 on the test?

Shared decision making were the buzz words back then. Let teachers inform the decision making process since we are the ones in the classroom. Our district does talk to teachers but when the rubber has to hit the road we have often been told that our role is advisory. Case in point: NexGen. If teacher insights/opinions were carried greater weight with the shared decision making process, the VC staff would not be burdened with NexGen this year. But at least we are using computers for attendance and gradebooks.

There were many unfunded mandates in 2000. Not much has changed. Actually we are further behind. In 2000 New York state invested in education. Currently, not only are we anticipating cuts to educational funding for next year, our good governor in his infinite wisdom (which only he recognizes and understands) is withholding payments on state aid for this year. With a billion dollar rainy day fund sitting untouched, Governor Patterson would rather withhold payment for children's education Pre-K-12 across the state rather than invest in their

futures. And to add insult to injury, SUNY budgets have been slashed by \$90 million dollars. Patterson has launched a re-election campaign with the motto "The People First". Exactly what people he is speaking of is unclear, but it certainly is not the children of the state that are being put first.

Lastly, collaborative teaching was introduced to the district ten years ago. So where are we today? There are still no collaborative pairings in special areas, only classrooms. Teachers are not able to choose pairings, it is still dictated by schedule and collaborative plan periods are accidental, with the majority of pairings not having the time they need to plan together. In ten years, has anyone collected any reliable data to show that the district is better off with this model of teaching?

There was a fear expressed in the March 2000 edition of ECHOES that teaching would become too scientific and not left to the teacher's artistry through micromanagement of method. We are told to have do nows, and to use Madeline Hunter to organize our lessons. It has helped us to organize the evaluation process so that it was fairer across the district and much discussion was put in at APPR meetings regarding this. However as with any teaching tool it is important that both teachers and administration recognize that a tool is just something to assist the operator of the tool. In review it appears that we have been spinning in circles for too long on too many issues. Add to that the many initiatives that have been introduced in the last 5 years throughout the district and we need to find a way to push our teaching forward into the 21st century as we continue to put children center.

—Patti Lunden, HS Art, VCTA VP

Mac's Musings (from the Retiree Side)...

Today is the 17th of November and I am three days early for the deadline of ECHOES! Will wonders ever cease?

This is a Mac first. Of course, guilt may have something to do with this new-found punctuality. I have missed two executive committee meetings in a row (also a Mac first!). However, retirees have been represented in fine fashion by fellow retiree rep, Arline Schnee Friedman.

The column at this time of year has always taken note of the many things for which this retiree gives thanks: generally good health, good kids and grandkids, a patient and generous wife, the crowd on Wednesday mornings, my fellow retirees, all Valley Central's active teachers and staff who continue the journey of placing children center. Thanks.

A recent conversation with two young active VC teachers has sent me once again into reflective mode. The burden of the dialogue dealt with the fact that some kids have no stability, no constant in their life except for the teachers whom they see and with whom they interact each day. How important is this vocation of ours to be men and women for others! W. Shakespeare's lines from Sonnet #116 jump into my mind: (the teacher) is an ever-fixed mark that looks on tempests and is never shaken." (The teacher) "is the star to every wandering bark whose worth is unknown..."—Thanks, Willy, for lending me those words. And, once again, let me say thanks to all of you who provide this stability to Valley Central's young men and women.

—Condolences

—To all who have lost beloved relatives and friends. Best Wishes for restored health to those who have been sick.

—It is my hope that VC will be spared the wrath of Swine Flu.

—Nobody asked me, but...

—Mid-year cuts in education by our less-than-enlightened state government are a travesty.

After presenting bare-boned budgets to taxpayers, school districts are asked to cut again in mid-stream. And then we are fed a plate full of platitudes about how important education is to our elected officials. Spare me.

—The push for a Tier 5 retirement is still hanging around. This is certainly a place where all teachers, active and retired, should "just say no." We have been flummocked before. Don't let it happen again. (Editor's note: Unfortunately, Tier 5 is now a reality; see page 6)

—Note that I have a bias here. Even NYSUT has apparently forgotten the Forgotten Mom-mies. (See any number of my comments in these pages going back several years).

—Retiree Update

—On a brighter note—the notes from the retirees who were unable to attend the luncheon brought many smiles to this scribe. Many are pleased to receive, on the Internet or in the print edition, VC news through ECHOES. Retirees are wonderful travelers: cruises, winter retreats to the South, trips into the city for plays, concerts, sporting events, etc. Let's hope that health allows all of this and more for all of our retirees.

—It is also interesting to note that many retirees continue to do some part-time teaching: subbing, community as schools, courses at OCCC, MSMC, New Paltz, etc. The journey continues.

—Amen

All sorts of good wishes during this holiday season. Thanks for turning to the back pages. Until next time, keep pushing back the barriers of ignorance in whatever venue life finds you. Peace.

—Mac



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If you have access to e-mail, consider joining **MAP**, Member Benefits' Member Assistance Program. Once every three weeks, you'll receive a brief e-mail message. It may be an advance notice of a change in an existing plan, an announcement of a new endorsement or a reminder about an endorsed program. These e-mail messages are immediately recognizable by the subject line: MAP Alert.

You have the option of reading each brief text message in an e-mail format or in a Web page format that includes eye-pleasing colors and graphics.

Occasionally, MAPers are asked for their opinions. Sometimes "MAP Alerts" include the opportunity to win valuable prizes offered by Member Benefits or providers of its endorsed programs.

Since MAP Alerts are sent from Member Benefits, your e-mail address is not shared with any outside parties.

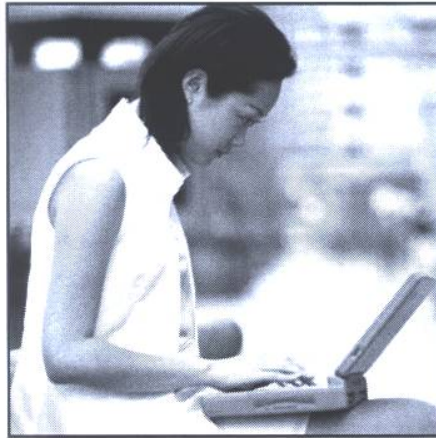
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For information about these programs or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits at 800-626-8101, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

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This service, called **My Program Participation**, allows you to look up information about the endorsed programs you participate in at any time, day or night. Information includes the payment methods you are eligible for as well as the method used (payroll/pension deduction or direct bill); deduction amounts; premium amounts and coverage information if provided by the vendor to Member Benefits; and phone numbers for the vendors.



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My Program Participation offers convenience and is especially beneficial if you participate in multiple programs through payroll or pension deduction. Your check stub shows one total deduction amount. With MPP, you can immediately see the individual amounts that comprise the total deduction.

Go to www.memberbenefits.nysut.org for the My Program Participation navigation bar on the left-hand side of the home page. Because MPP is housed in a password-protected area of the site, you will need to do an initial login to establish your account. Due to privacy issues, you will be asked to create your own enhanced security code to access the look-up service. Instructions are on the Web site.



Support Our Local Businesses!



DISCOUNTED AUTO AND HOME INSURANCE

As an employee of the Valley Central School District you are eligible for a reduction off the already competitive Auto and Home insurance through Travelers Insurance Group, a top rated carrier.

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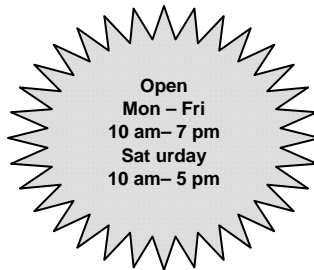


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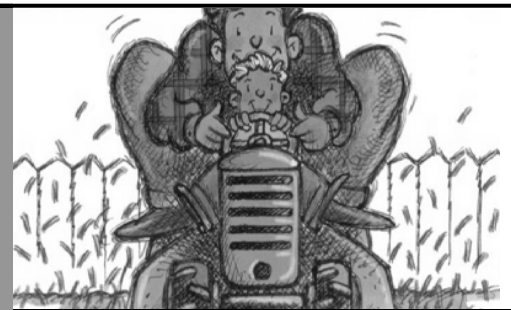
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