

## COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Another Instance In Which The Whole Was Greater Than The Sum Of It's Parts

4

## EXECUTIVE LEARNING INSTITUTE

A Sampling Of Workshop Offerings From ELI This Month

7

## THE WELFARE FUND

Open Enrollment Period Begins, Options For Dental Plan Coverage

9

# CSA NEWS

COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Nov. 2017

Volume 51, Number 3  
American Federation  
of School Administrators,  
AFL-CIO Local 1

## Friedrichs Failed, But Janus Rears Its Head

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

Sometime before the end of June, America's labor unions and those who want to kill them should learn the outcome of a case before the Supreme Court that is designed to do just that. Few observers expect the Court will rule in favor of organized labor. *Janus v. American Federation of State, Municipal and County Employees* presents an identical set of facts as those in *Friedrichs v. California Teachers Association*: An employee who does not want to be a member of his union has challenged his obligation to pay the union what are known as agency fees, money meant to cover his share of the expenses of collective bargaining. The legal rationale for the fees is that employees should not profit as freeloaders on the contracts and benefits that unions have hammered out on their behalf.

Mark Janus argues that contract negotiations are inherently political since unions attempt to influence government policy. Therefore, the argument goes, the employee is being forced to back speech with which he does not agree – a violation of the First Amendment since no one should have to pay for someone else's speech.

The Justices announced on Sept. 28 that they would hear *Janus*. Oral arguments should occur sometime in the next few months and a written decision will likely be handed down in June.

Janus challenges law that  
*Continued on Page 3*

## Honors For 'Hometown Heroes' Exceptional Contributions To NYC Schools Recognized

BY KATE GIBSON

CSA members Kate Burch and Patricia Minaya were among the 10 educators chosen from more than 200 nominations to be honored for making exceptional contributions on behalf of New York City's 1.1 million public school students.

"There are 200, there could have been 2,000," CSA President Mark Cannizzaro told a packed ballroom on Oct. 5. He encouraged those in the audience to write to a teacher or school leader that influenced them in a positive way, saying such feedback is a welcome aspect of a difficult job.

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña were among those presenting awards at the Daily News Hometown Heroes in Education awards ceremony held at the Edison Ballroom in Times Square.

*'We impact students, the community, and the future of this country.'*

Cheryl Wills, a journalist and host of a NY1 show, was the emcee of the fifth annual gathering. She noted that her husband of 25 years is a principal, and quipped about their pillow talk: "We talk about the PTA and what the superintendent did," she said, adding dryly, "It's so stimulating."

Ms. Burch, the principal and founder of Manhattan's Harvest Collegiate High School, set out to prove that a diverse student body can succeed at a school that doesn't screen for admissions.

An educator in NYC school since 2003,

the Manhattan native opened Harvest Collegiate in 2012, with 96 percent of its seniors graduating last year.

Nearly a third of the students at Harvest Collegiate have disabilities, and more than half come from families that meet federal poverty guidelines and qualify for free lunches. All told, they come from families from more than 25 countries.

"The diversity of the city is an asset in our schools and not a barrier," Ms. Burch told the Daily News. "Many of our students say the diversity in our school is part of their profoundest learning."

Ms. Minaya also oversees a diverse student body as the founder and principal of the Urban Assembly School of Business for Young Women, located in NYC's financial district.

Raised in Manhattan's Washington  
*Continued on Page 3*

## AFSA AND CSA

# School Leaders Set Up Fund In Aftermath Of Hurricane Maria

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

The recent hurricanes that wreaked destruction on Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands has left educators struggling to reopen schools. In response, the American Federation of School Administrators set up a hurricane relief fund. On Oct. 21, CSA's Executive Board approved a motion to donate \$10,000 to the AFSA fund. The donation was followed by CSA's Retiree Chapter's decision to contribute \$2,500 to the AFSA effort. AFSA will use the money to purchase supplies that AFSA members say they need to help get schools up and running again.

"The devastation that has been inflicted on the people in these U.S. territories is truly heartbreaking, and school administrators are at the forefront of trying to help resume a measure of normalcy," said Mark Cannizzaro, CSA's president and AFSA's general vice president. "We are trying to do our part, and I urge all our members to make a personal donation to this fund as well."

To learn more about the fund and to make a donation, please go to AFSA's website at [www.afsaadmin.org/2017-hurricane-relief-fund/](http://www.afsaadmin.org/2017-hurricane-relief-fund/).

CSA member Maria de los Angeles Barreto, who was in Puerto Rico during the Hurricane, recounts her experience and discusses the situation on **PAGE 7**.



■ Damaged property in Rincón, Puerto Rico, near the home of Maria de los Angeles Barreto, retired Brooklyn principal.



### Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

American Federation of School Administrators, AFL-CIO, Local 1

40 Rector St., NY, NY 10006  
Phone: (212) 823-2020  
Fax: (212) 962-6130  
www.csa-nyc.org

**President**  
Mark Cannizzaro

**Executive Vice President**  
Henry Rubio

**First Vice President**  
Rosemarie Sinclair

**Treasurer**  
Christopher Ogno

**Secretary**  
Steffani Fanizzi

**Vice Presidents**  
Sam Akel  
Susan Barnes  
Ramon Gonzalez  
Debra Handler  
Lois Lee  
Nancy Russo, Retiree Chapter

**Executive Director Operations**  
Erminia Claudio

**General Counsel**  
David Grandwetter

**Executive Director Field Services**  
Sana Q. Nasser

**Field Directors**  
Juanita Bass, Mildred Boyce,  
James Harrigan, Christine Martin,  
Daisy O'Gorman, Frank Patterson,  
Mercedes Qualls

**Assistant Field Directors**  
Beshir Abdellatif, Eleanor Andrew,  
Laverne Burrowes, Kenneth Llinas  
Charles Dluzniewski, Nancy Esposito,  
Roberto Flores, Aura Gangemi, Ellie  
Greenberg, Ray Gregory, Joseph LaCascia,  
Monica McDonald,  
Dorothy Morris, Wanda Soto,  
MaryAnn Tucker, Yvonne Williams

**Grievance Director**  
Robert J. Reich

**Assistant Directors**  
Carol Atkins, Alex Castillo, Ed. D  
Robert Colon, Jermaine Garden, Dale Kelly  
Marlene Lazar, Ph.D

**Director of Communications**  
Clem Richardson

**Assistant Director of Communications**  
Corey Bachman

**Director of Political Affairs**  
Herman Merritt

**Assistant Director of Political Affairs**  
Gabe Gallucci

**Assistant Director**  
John Khani

**Special Assistant to President**  
Gary Goldstein

**CSA Conference Chair**  
Pierre Lehmuller

**CSA Historian**  
Manfred Korman

**CSA Retiree Chapter**  
Gayle Lockett, Chair  
Mark Brodsky, Director

### CSA NEWS

**Editor** Chuck Wilbanks  
**Associate Editor** Kate Gibson  
**Design Consultant** Michele Pacheco  
**Production Assistant** Christine Altman

CSA News (004-532) is published monthly except July and August for \$35 per year per member by CSA, 40 Rector St., NY, NY 10006. Periodical postage paid at Manhattan, NY, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CSA News, 40 Rector St., NY, NY 10006.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

# Wrecking Teacher Standards Hurts Us All

## SUNY Charter Schools Degrade Our Profession By Mark Cannizzaro

**W**e educators bristle at a certain perception held by a few people that "anyone can teach." Well, guess what? Now, anyone can teach. Last month, my eyes popped when – unbelievably – SUNY voted to waive state requirements for teacher certification in SUNY charter schools.

Most of us became public school leaders because we're passionate about teaching all children and believe that as administrators we can make more powerful contributions to student learning. But we never stop being teachers. So, when teachers are denigrated or devalued, we react, even go on the defensive. Personally, I have been feeling this way more often as I hear voices from on high tell us that public schools have failed and as I see allegiances, and often resources, shift to charters, vouchers and for-profit schools. This SUNY capitulation on certification is a slap to qualified, committed teachers. "I think it's insulting," said Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa.

Wealth, power and fame determine which professions are most admired, but a high level of training as well as influence on society have something to do with perceptions, too. That's how teachers have hung on to respect. But SUNY is chipping away at that as it bows to pressure from schools such as Success Academy, a SUNY charter chain with generally high test scores and a powerful corporate fan base. Under the new rules, designed to help Success Academy and other SUNY charters compensate for their outrageous teacher turnover, applicants will not have to take state certification exams; their teacher training practice will be reduced from 100 hours to 40; their training can be delivered by uncertified educators;



and they won't need an M.A.

In the words of state Education Commissioner MaryEllen Elia: "I could go into a fast food restaurant and get more training than that."

**T**his certainly relegates teaching to the bargain basement of professions. We can't let it become a trend. If anything, state certification rules should be reexamined and made tougher. We should require more, not less, practice teaching under seasoned mentors. I remember a *New York Times* story on the Pisa Report from 2011. The report said, "To improve its public schools, the United States should raise the status of the teaching profession by recruiting more qualified candidates, training them better and paying them more." I agree.

But the way SUNY has lowered teacher standards in order to bow to political pressure from its charters makes me worry that we might be moving in the other direction for all charter schools. And this nod to unqualified teachers isn't just a travesty for the education profession; it's more of a travesty for the large numbers of black, brown and high needs youngsters that charter schools are supposed to educate.

The only beneficiaries of this loosening of standards are the charter school leaders, who now get to staff up, unfettered. There's no long-range benefit to the teachers who will come in under these shabby standards. Like their predecessors, many of them will buckle under the pressure of working long days, evenings and weekends in return for skimpy salaries, benefits and no pensions. After a few years, other careers or DOE teaching jobs with union benefits will glitter before their eyes. But those who want to switch to traditional public school teaching jobs will have a rude awakening when they remember that they aren't certified

to work for any public school in the state. They will be stuck with their charter school jobs unless they take the time to remedy that.

**I**t's getting harder all the time to think of charter schools as non-traditional public schools, which they are funded as and claim to be. There are few procedures for how charter schools spend public tax money or educate children. Now, at least in the case of SUNY's charter franchises, there are no real teacher certification procedures. Charter schools differ radically in another way: often, they have a rich slush fund of private sector cash supplementing their public funds. The more corporate cash and backing they get, the more muscle they have with legislators.

When all this began, we had hopes that charter schools would be laboratories of learning, where we could send our staffs to absorb exemplary teaching practices from exceptionally innovative teachers. That didn't happen and it's even less likely to if the downgrading of charter school teacher standards spreads. As leaders of schools, we have to stand up against everything that degrades our profession and has the potential to hurt our children.

*Mark Cannizzaro is president of the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators.*

## New Member Reception

# Meeting The Future



CLEM RICHARDSON

■ Dozens new to CSA ranks braved high winds and the threat of rain Oct. 24 to attend their union's annual reception for new members in Founders Hall. They enjoyed a buffet and met CSA leaders, field directors and other staff members, as well as people like themselves: New school leaders working some of the toughest jobs in town. Assistant Grievance Director and event organizer Jermaine Garden introduced CSA President Mark Cannizzaro, who told attendees that their union had already been at work for them – earlier in the month each received a lump sum payment that was negotiated years ago by CSA with the support of members who didn't stand to gain themselves. "That was a real display of unionism, and I'm sure at some point in your careers we'll be calling on you to do the same thing," Mr. Cannizzaro said. "So every time you see that check remember that that is what unionism is all about. "We try our best to be a family here at CSA and to stick up for one another."

## SUPREME COURT

# Unions Likely To Take Direct Hit In Janus v. ACFSME Case

Continued from Page 1

has been settled for 40 years and which had until recently seemed impregnable. Even the late Justice Antonin Scalia – no friend of unions – had in previous cases before the Court looked upon freeloaders with disdain. But in oral arguments over Friedrichs, he appeared to favor overturning the 1977 case of *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which upheld agency fees.

Justice Scalia's death in February 2016 left the Court deadlocked on Friedrichs. Now, with conservative Neil Gorsuch appointed to fill Justice Scalia's seat, legal experts, union leaders and union opponents alike believe the court will decide that taking fees from employees is unconstitutional.

That could set up many unions for a direct hit.

The case was originally brought by Bruce Rauner, the GOP governor of Illinois. Rauner had tried by executive fiat to cease passing agency fees on to unions in Illinois, where AFSCME is the state's largest union. Rauner sued the federal government seeking a ruling that would make his order stick. When a federal judge removed him from the case because he had no personal interest in the litigation, other plaintiffs continued, including lead plaintiff Mark Janus, an employee of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services.

Gov. Rauner's political career has been backed by private equity kingpin Kenneth Griffin and other billionaires who favor tax regulations, fiscal austerity and privatization of public services.

*Seeking to take away benefits and protections such as seniority rights, due process, or defined benefit pensions.*

They are avowed enemies of unions and favor charter schools over traditional public schools. William M. Daley, the former chief of staff to President Obama who served on Mr. Rauner's transition team, told the *New York Times* that Griffin and other billionaires who donated large sums to Rauner, "believe philosophically that strong public unions are a root of all evil in governing places like Illinois or Chicago and New York and California."

When the Supreme Court agreed to hear the Janus case, the *Chicago Tribune* reported that an ebullient Rauner told attendees at an Illinois Chamber of Commerce luncheon that his lawyers give the plaintiffs a 90 percent chance of victory.

"This is a big deal, ladies and gentlemen, big deal," Rauner told the audience, adding that a ruling against unions will be "transformative for the state of Illinois, transformative for America and the relationship between our taxpayers and the people who work for our taxpayers. It's not going to be a one-way deal anymore."

CSA General Counsel David

Grandwetter also believes that, given the current crop of justices, Janus will likely be decided against unions. And like many others, he worries that some members don't pause and reflect how integral their union is to their middle class standard of living.

"There have been many attempts legislatively to take away benefits and protections such as seniority rights, due process, or defined benefit pensions," he said. "But those attempts have been people from the outside trying to take away what union members have earned. The difference with this is that once the case is decided, it won't be an attack from the outside. The strategy at that point will be to reach individual union members, convince them to be shortsighted enough to believe that saving a few hundred dollars in union dues is in their best interests, and by doing that, distance themselves from the union that has provided all those things. I believe our members are more perceptive than that."

"Our members will understand the incentive the billionaires are putting out there is for them to walk away from the entity that is providing all those things. When they understand it on those terms, they'll rally behind the union."

"Knowing what I do about CSA members, I know they will understand the benefit in having CSA here to continue to negotiate their well-deserved salaries, due-process job protections and standard of living through retirement."

## City Officials On Hand To Honor Top Educators At Packed NYC Gala Event

Continued from Page 1

Heights neighborhood, Ms. Minaya is the daughter of parents who immigrated from the Dominican Republic.

After years of working as a teacher and administrator, she in 2005 founded the Urban Assembly School of Business for Young Women with the idea of offering its students a path to becoming successful businesswomen. Most of the school's nearly 300 students are black and Hispanic teens from working-class neighborhoods.

"We make a difference every day. We're impacting the lives of students, and also their families – and the future of this country," Ms. Minaya told the newspaper.

Hip hop pioneer Darryl McDaniels of Run-DMC was also among those presenting an award. The Queens native recalled that a ninth grade teacher at Rice High School would give his English class



■ CSA Executive Vice President Henry Rubio and First Vice President Rosemarie Sinclair with Principals Patricia Minaya and Kate Burch.

10 minutes of free down time to get whatever was troubling them out of their system. "I spent that time writing

raps," said Mr. McDaniels, which later formed the backbone of his hit music.

"Teachers prepare children for life," he said, adding that in all likelihood he would have become a teacher himself had he not found a path in music. Mr. McDaniels is a prominent supporter of public education through the Entertainers 4 Education Alliance.

Other educators honored at the event included Michael Masefield, a teacher at JM Rapport High School in the Bronx, who built a farm with vegetables and a chicken coop on school grounds to give his students, all of whom have serious learning disabilities or behavior issues, a break from city life. Mindy Morales won for her work as a teacher at the East River Academy, the school at Rikers Island.

"No matter where a kid is, they deserve the best education they can possibly get," she said.

## Upcoming At ABENY

The Association of Black Educators is planning a number of meetings and activities for the 2017-18 school year:

Oct. 15 ABENY's second general membership meeting will be 3-6 pm at the Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA, 1121 Bedford Ave. The topic is *The Impact of Mental Health on Minority Communities*. The meeting will be coordinated by Adrian Straker, ABENY Executive Board Member and School Guidance Counselor. Educators and parents are welcome; refreshments will be served.

Nov. 11 ABENY's Annual Fall Education Conference will be 8-3 pm at Frederick Douglass Academy, 2581 Adam Clayton Powell Blvd. The theme is *Education for Advocacy and Social Justice*. The keynote speaker will be Seon Britton, Program Manager for Diversity Recruitment, NYC DoE, and several outstanding workshop leaders. Vendors will also be available throughout the day.

Nov. 19. ABENY's third general membership meeting will be 3-6 pm at the Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA, 1121 Bedford Ave. The topic is *Addressing the needs of Homeless Students and Students in Foster Care*. The meeting will be coordinated by Victor Jordan, J.D., ABENY Executive Board Member and Legal Redress Chair. Educators and parents are welcome; refreshments will be served.

ABENY invites grade 2 -10 students to participate in the 2018 Black History Month Essay Contest. The topic is *African American Mathematicians, Scientists and Inventors*. Deadline for entries is Jan. 5. Winners will be honored at the Brooklyn Historical Society Feb. 3, and receive an award and \$50 gift certificate. Beverly Lawrence, president of the Women's League of Science and Medicine will be guest speaker.

For more information, contact Dr. Sheilah Bobo at [sbobo@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:sbobo@schools.nyc.gov), [sheilahbobo@gmail.com](mailto:sheilahbobo@gmail.com) or (917) 412-9099.

## Teachers' Retirement System

Oct. 2017 Unit Values

Diversified Equity Fund: 91.800

Bond Fund: 16.663

International Equity Fund: 11.083

Inflation Protection Fund: 10.238

Socially Responsive Equity Fund: 16.596

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

## NATION Labor

### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: No Protection

Attorney General Jeff Sessions rescinded a 2014 Justice Department memo stating that Title VII protects transgender people. Sessions said the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of a worker's biological sex, not gender identity. The Democratic National Committee is urging Congress to pass a law that explicitly protects LGBT workers. (reuters.com)

### MASSACHUSETTS: Harvard Petition

An online petition to press Harvard to drop its appeal to the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) is gaining momentum. NLRB ruled the university must hold a new election re: the unionization of Harvard Graduate Students. Over 180 votes have been collected. If Harvard wins its appeal, it could mean "a weakening of the democratic process of unionization" across the nation. The NLRB has not agreed to hear the case as yet. (thecrimson.com)

### MISSOURI: Unionization Threat

Washington University (WU) students who joined the nationwide student unionization campaign, received an email from the University that painted unions as risky, irrational ventures. Further, it implied it would be necessary to contact US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were international students to strike. According to the article, the University determines student status, not ICE, and revoking a student's status for union actions would violate federal labor law. WU has since revised its statement to say it would not report a student change in status unless it was necessary to be "legally compliant." (thenation.com)

### CALIFORNIA: LA Times Unionizes

After 135 years, the LA Times is finally unionizing. Over the years, the paper was touted for paying some of the best salaries and benefits in the industry. However, recent policies that have stripped staff of forms of compensation, such as being paid for unused vacation time, pushed workers to take a stand with the NewsGuild. (laweekly.com)

### OHIO: Class Action Suits

The Supreme Court recently heard a trio of cases on the issue of whether or not it is legal for employers to require workers to sign agreements to resolve any disputes they may have individually – in other words, not to be able to file class actions. The court has made no decisions as yet. It is feared that a ruling against workers could have a huge impact on how workplace disputes are addressed and how labor laws are enforced. (npr.org)

— COMPILED BY  
CHRISTINE ALTMAN

## Letter

### Collective Bargaining Accomplishments: The Whole Is Greater Than The Sum Of Its Parts

*To the Editor:* I retired in Aug., 1996 after serving 20 years as the Principal of the Spuyten Duyvil School, PS 24, in the Riverdale section of the Bronx.

I read with great interest the article in the Sept., 2017, "Collective Bargaining - Don't Try this Alone." I continue to be impressed with all that our "small but mighty" union continues to accomplish for all its members. The list is very, very impressive.



David Rothstein

As I read the article, it brought back many special memories of the continued support CSA provided to me as a newly appointed assistant principal in the early 1970's.

In 1975, New York City faced a budget crisis which had a major impact on the schools. At the time, 5,000 teachers, members of the UFT, lost their jobs and the CSA was informed that 80 recently



■ New York City in the 1970's: This was not an easy time to work in the city's schools or to fight for the rights of workers, yet CSA members pulled together and achieved their goals.

appointed assistant principals would be laid off without the ability to revert back to a teaching position. We were losing our jobs.

CSA quickly met with the Board of Education to find ways to save the 80 supervisors and came up with a plan. The plan was for all the members of CSA to give up their COLA increase for that year and save the 80 assistant principals. The plan was sent out to CSA members for a vote and the 4,000 members agreed. In a week, we received a reinstatement

letter and all 80 assistant principals returned to their supervisory positions. We watched other unions' inability to save any positions and CSA saved all 80! It was a wonderful accomplishment.

So as I read this collective bargaining article, I continue to be in awe of the CSA's accomplishments over the years. For me it has been over 40 years of CSA pride.

—DAVID ROTHSTEIN  
Principal, , Retired

Spuyten Duyvil School, Bronx

## Grievance Corner

Bob Reich

### Avoid The Pitfalls Of Investigations



### Attorneys from CSA represent you. DOE attorneys represent Chancellor Fariña.

Investigations. Investigators. Lawyers. All have become part of the daily routine that many supervisors must deal with on a daily basis. Let me offer you a few helpful hints about how to deal with this unfortunate new reality.

An investigation takes place after an allegation has been made to an investigative office, such as the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), the Office of Equal Opportunities (OEO), the Special Commissioner of Investigations (SCI) and the Conflict of Interest Board. Complaints can be made by a student, a parent, a staff member and even your superintendent or DOE attorney. In fact, anyone can file a complaint – anonymously. SCI operates under the umbrella of the Department of Investigation and is independent of the Department of Education. It can supersede any investigation being conducted by another office. Investigations conducted by SCI include allegations of conflict violations (the investigation results are forwarded to the Conflict Board), inappropriate relationships, abuse, theft, etc. OSI and OEO are the investigative arms of the Chancellor. OSI is most often involved in investigating allegations of corporal punishment.

Should an investigator come to your school or your home and ask to speak with you, you should respond that you will gladly speak with them – as soon as your union representative is present. CSA provides trained representatives to guide you before, during and after the meeting with the investigator.

To obtain representation, go to our website and under the DOE Member section you'll find an area devoted to investigation protocol. Print and fill out the form, and either scan it and send it to Liz Dell'Alba [liz@csa-nyc.org](mailto:liz@csa-nyc.org), or fax it to her at (212) 962-6130. You will be contacted by a

CSA investigation representative. We will discuss with you in detail the investigation process and schedule a time to meet in person with your advocate.

• • •

**Y**our union fought hard during the last contract negotiations so that you and CSA must be informed of the investigation findings in writing. If an investigation remains open more than 180 days, the Chancellor now reviews and determines if she or her designee can move ahead with completion of the C-30 process, promotions, etc. CSA continues to monitor investigations closely so that the DOE completes investigations promptly.

You must provide investigators with any written records they request. If the originals are requested, make copies and have the investigator sign for the originals. The investigator can speak with any staff members they wish and if they request to speak with students, that should be permitted as long as an adult is present.

Many supervisors believe that if they seek advice from their DOE legal counsel they will get sound advice. Unfortunately, the reality is far different. DOE legal counsel is not your attorney. Rather, he or she serves as the Chancellor's attorney, and you will enjoy no attorney client privilege. Many times, I have seen cases in which a CSA member seeks advice from a DOE lawyer and after candid conversations learns that the DOE lawyer has turned around and made a referral to an investigative office based upon what was discussed. Remember: CSA attorneys represent you and maintain attorney client privilege. Think twice when speaking to DOE attorneys.

When an issued investigative report is founded, you are likely to be summoned to a meeting with your supervisor to discuss the findings. Do not go to these meetings without representation! You are to be given notice in writing at least 48 hours before the meeting. You are also to be notified of the reasons you are being summoned. Upon receipt of the notice immediately contact Liz Dell'Alba at [liz@csa-nyc.org](mailto:liz@csa-nyc.org) and an advocate will call you and arrange to represent you.

Your CSA is striving to expedite the investigative process and to ensure that hearings are completed in a timely manner and that you are treated fairly at all times.

Bob Reich is Grievance Director at CSA.

# 'It Was A Strong Crowd. There's Power In Numbers'

## Political Action Committee Looks To Expand Its Reach, Mobilize Members

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

CSA's political action committee met at 40 Rector St. on Oct. 10 to strategize on how best to proceed in a near-term future marked by hostility toward unions and relentless pressures on public educators. Some 70 members, retired and active, were on hand.

"It was a strong crowd — more and more members are joining our PAC," said CSA Assistant Political Director Gabe Gallucci, who, along with Political Director Herman Merritt, organized the meeting. "We've been consistently reaching out to people, but at the same time, people are motivated by a sense of urgency. People are listening, and they are also taking ownership and looking at how we can effectively mobilize."

To join the PAC, members can make a per-paycheck contribution of their choice - the minimum to become a President's Club member is \$8 per pay period.

These contributions are pooled in a



■ CSA President Mark Cannizzaro addressed a group of about 70 members of CSA's political action committee at CSA headquarters on Oct. 10.

fund that is used to support the political campaigns of lawmakers and candidates who support the union and public education on a variety of issues.

The fund has grown substantially over the last several years, helping give CSA an amplified voice in state, local and even federal levels.

CSA President Mark Cannizzaro began the meeting by emphasizing the importance of involvement by CSA legislative district coordinators, who listen to mem-

bers and meet with local politicians. Currently there are 20 such coordinators. Ultimately, CSA is aiming to have 32.

Executive Vice President Henry Rubio told the gathering, a majority of whom were retirees, about the important role they can play in ensuring union solidarity, noting that retirees are best armed to describe how difficult educators' working lives were before the union and how having CSA support through the years has led to incremental but ultimately great

improvements in living standards, job security and professional respect for all members, including younger ones just coming into the union.

Passing on this history to younger members effectively will be crucial if anti-union "right-to-work" policies become more entrenched nationally, Rubio said.

Many of the members present agreed. During a wide-ranging discussion several members offered suggestions, including closer coordination between CSA and other unions.

"We've always had legislative meetings in the past," but it was always around policy and legislation, rather than bringing people together to expand the PAC," Mr. Gallucci said. "We want to take a more holistic approach to how and why we're doing this work. There's power in numbers, and these are people who represent a lot of people and are important figures in their community. I'm hoping this empowers our members to be involved."

## Straight Talk From Puerto Rico

This letter was written by CSA member Maria de los Angeles Barreto, who retired in November, 2012 as principal of IS 296 in Brooklyn. She recounts her experiences during Hurricane María and concludes with a plea that the island needs aid, not more debt. The US Congress recently approved a relief bill granting loans to Puerto Rico.

—CW

“ It has been more than two weeks since Hurricane María made landfall on the northeast part of Puerto Rico and wreaked destruction across Puerto Rico for 22 hours. The night of the hurricane, I heard the heavy rains and fierce winds pounding on my beautiful and strong concrete home. At midnight, the howling, strong winds haunted me to sleep beside my mother's bed. At 5 am, the winds were stronger than ever, beating upon my security windows and doors. I felt them shudder but they did not give in.

The following morning, heavy winds were making even more noise. We were locked in the family room in the center of the home on the first level away from windows and doors. I thanked God we were still alive. And I prayed for Him to calm the storm, keep us safe, and keep the people of Puerto Rico safe as well.

When the hurricane finally ceased, I looked outside my home and I could not believe my eyes. The surrounding area was bare: All the trees were down and there was nothing green. I checked my home and found only minor water damage on the top level. The Lord blessed us and our home.



■ Retired principal Maria de los Angeles Barreto, right, with her mother Pura Maria Velázquez.

Since Hurricane María, we have had no power, no water, no cable, no Internet and no phone service. We have spent every day at home waiting for services to be restored. But we feel blessed to be safe and alive. My mother is doing fine, and she's in good spirits.

It is not easy knowing that many people have lost everything. The Island's vegetation has been destroyed. There are fallen trees and light poles on the ground with hanging power cables everywhere. Puerto Rico is a completely ruined place.

People wait in lines that begin miles away to get \$15.worth of gas. For some, when they are almost at the pump, they learn there is no gas left and they must return the next day to start at the end of the line again. People have to get their drinking water by waiting in long lines as well. Supermarket shelves are almost empty.

Before the hurricane, I prepared my car with a full tank of gas and I won't move it unless there is an emergency. I stored enough supplies to last a few days: gasoline to power my generator, food, drinking water, batteries and bleach to disinfect pool water we will use to clean our home.



■ Damaged property in Barrio Rueblo, Rincón, Puerto Rico, near the home of Maria de los Angeles Barreto, retired Brooklyn principal.

There have been no flights into or out of the Island. The next flights on JetBlue, Delta and American Airlines are scheduled on Oct. 14 and they are booked. My son Anthony used his tech skills to purchase 2 tickets through United Airlines arriving at LaGuardia Airport. We're planning on spending time in New York until services are restored. The National Guard has been here assisting on the main roads with traffic, gasoline lines, banks, post offices, stores, and water and food distribution.

As I write this, Puerto Rico has begun to receive goods and supplies, but public school and university students are not attending classes and businesses are closed. ATM machines are not working. Doctors and trauma specialists are all working to treat people but hospitals are crowded and they are asking for

help. Generators have been placed in locations where we have the sick and the less fortunate. The generators are kept running all night, making it impossible to get any rest.

The government is doing what it can to help people. Puerto Ricans are people of faith and with great courage and they will work diligently to make a new Puerto Rico and make it stronger. We need basic necessities and we need Congress to help Puerto Rico with the reconstruction of the Island. In addition, we need aid and grants -- not loans -- to move the reconstruction projects forward.

The debt and the fiscal board should be eliminated.

Thank you for your prayers, and for supporting the Island of Puerto Rico.



## In Memoriam

■ **ROBERTA BADER**, 83, died Sept. 21. Known as Bobby, she was born in Brooklyn and lived briefly in Australia. A graduate of Hunter College, she was a teacher for the U.S. Army in Germany and traveled extensively from there. "She was quite an independent lady," said Larry Rapaport, her cousin. She taught at PS 3 and PS 20 in Brooklyn, where she became an assistant principal. She retired in 1993 as principal of PS 8 in Brooklyn Heights. She remained active as a hearing officer in the DOE's Office of Appeals and Reviews and as a member of the Southeast Florida Unit of the CSA Retirement Chapter. Her husband of some 35 years, Martin, died in 2007. A resident of Brooklyn, she also had homes in Florida and in the Poconos, PA. Survivors include a brother, Julius, or Julie, Lokin, a stepson, Harold Bader, and three grandchildren. (*This notice corrects details of an earlier version last month.*)

■ **WESLEY BAILEY, JR.**, 61, died on June 25 in Neptune, NJ. Born and raised in Bensonville, Liberia, he attended Cuttington University in Suacoco, Liberia, where he earned a BS in economics and met his wife of 34 years, Louise. After starting a career as a government budget analyst, Mr. Bailey graduated in 1982 with an MA in development economics from the University of Windsor, Ontario. He returned to Liberia in 1983 and continued his government work, before moving to the U.S. later that year. In 1990, Mr. Bailey earned an MA in education from Lehman College and in 2001, he began working as a special education teacher and assistant principal at the Lewis and Clark School in the Bronx, then worked as a staff developer for the NYC BOE in Brooklyn. In 2004, he started working as an assistant principal at Lakewood High School in Lakewood, NJ, and then as an assistant principal at Lakewood Middle School and principal at Oak Street Elementary School. In addition to his wife, survivors include his children, Wesley Bailey III and Candace Mahtee, along with Ze Darlington Zeon, who Mr. Bailey helped raise after civil war erupted in Liberia, and eight sisters.

■ **HAROLD BERMAN**, 96, died on May 14 in Florida. Born in New York City, he graduated from Townsend Harris High School and City College. Mr. Berman was a teacher before becoming an assistant principal at PS 183 in Brooklyn. When he started at the school, Mr. Berman resorted to wearing a clip-on tie, a strategy that helped give him the upper hand when he broke up fights between kids. "They'd grab at the tie and it would come off in their hands, and the utter shock of having a tie in their hand" allowed the AP to gain control, his daughter recalled. One year, the staff at PS 183 put on a show, with Mr. Berman playing the Nathan Detroit character in their version of *Guys and Dolls*. "He thoroughly enjoyed that," said his daughter, who asked not to be identified.

■ **SHELDON DIAMOND**, 89, died on Sept. 7 in Newton, CT. Born and raised in NYC, Mr. Diamond went to City College and St. John's University, earning a BA and an MA. He started his career as a lab assistant at Brooklyn Tech, the only NYC public school that had an opening for him, recalled his wife of 65 years, Henrietta. "We were there for the start of the UFT and the start of CSA," she said. "I used to march in the Labor Day parade with my daughters in their carriage." Mr. Diamond taught science at Forest Hills High School in Queens, where he became an assistant principal, retiring in 1984 when he became a grandfather. The couple, who married in 1952, lived in Queens until moving to Connecticut to be closer to one of their daughters. "Aside from loving his students and the subject he taught, we traveled a great deal," starting with Asia,

said his wife, who said they took their children to the World's Fair in Osaka, Japan, in 1970. In addition to his wife, survivors include two daughters, Janet Mauro and Barrie Bauer, a brother, David, five granddaughters and one great-grandson.

■ **VINCENT GATTULLO**, 86, died Sept. 12 in Staten Island. One of seven children born to immigrant parents, Mr. Gattullo worked as a shoeshine boy and delivered newspapers and milk while attending school. A graduate of Curtis High School, he was awarded a full scholarship to St. Francis College in Brooklyn, and transferred to St. John's University in Queens, where he earned a bachelor of science in biology in 1956. From 1953 to 1955 he served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Colorado. During a three-day furlough in 1994, He married his high school sweetheart, Virginia. He began as a science teacher at PS 18 in West Brighton in 1957 and four years later was named science supervisor for Staten Island public schools. In 1969, he helped devise a sex education program for NYC public schools. He was the physical-education supervisor at the YMCA in Brooklyn from 1956 to 1971 and an adjunct assistant biology professor at the College of Staten Island from 1970 to 2001. Mr. Gattullo, who also held a master's degree in education from Wagner College and a certificate in administration and supervision from the former Richmond College, in 1979 was acting principal of Totten Intermediate School. He also taught at Hunter College in Manhattan and at Wagner College and St. John's University. From 1980 to 2004, he was executive director of the Staten Island Zoo. In addition to his wife, survivors include a son, Steven, and a daughter, Caryn Gattullo-Clark, a brother, George, and three grandchildren.

■ **UNA JAMES** 77, died July 18 in Royal Palm Beach, FL. Born in Brooklyn, where she lived much of her life, she graduated from Central Commercial High School and earned a BA in psychology and an MA in science and guidance counseling from Brooklyn College. She started out as a secretary in District 23 in Brooklyn, and became a guidance counselor and assistant to the district administrator of special education. She spent the final years of her career in Brooklyn's District 3 as director of pupil personal services. "Her most fulfilling years were as a counselor; she loved helping kids get into the schools they wanted and helping troubled kids find a way to solve their problems," said Kay Collins, who had known Ms. James for many years and retired as an assistant principal in District 23. Ms. James retired to Florida, where she was involved in charitable work. Survivors include a son, Dalmar, and a daughter, Daria, and a granddaughter. Her husband, Dalmar, predeceased her.

■ **MARION LECHOWICZ**, 79, died on Feb. 25 in Mt. Vernon, NY. Born in New York City, she attended St. Jerome School and the Academy of Mount St. Ursula in the Bronx. After graduating from the College of New Rochelle with a BA in speech and English, she taught at St. Joseph's School for the Deaf in the Bronx. After earning an MA from Hunter College in speech and hearing handicapped education, she taught in NYC public schools in special education. She later obtained an advanced degree in administration, policy and urban education from Fordham University. She retired as a supervisor of special education field services in 1998. Active in her college alumnae association and at her former parish, St. Ursula's in Mt. Vernon, she served in the folk choir and parish council. In addition to her husband,

survivors include three children, Mary Jo, Megan and Joseph, a sister, Geraldine Farrell and eight grandchildren.

■ **LAURA NEUER**, 96, died on July 24 in Boca Raton, FL. Born in Queens, she graduated from Richmond Hill High School and Queens College, with the latter interrupted when she married, in 1940, and started a family. After she finished college, she began teaching in 1950. She then obtained a supervisory license and became assistant principal of PS 90 in Queens, a position she retired from in 1975. She and her husband Nathan were married for 71 years, and lived in Queens until a move to Florida in 1975. "They had a very long, good marriage and they both felt very lucky," said their daughter, Blanche Brodie. "They only separated for a year when dad went off to World War II." Nathan Neuer died in 2011. In her retirement, Ms. Neuer played piano and sang in glee clubs and shows. "It was part of her joy: music, education and family," said her daughter. Survivors also include a son, Fredric, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

■ **JOHN REEDY**, 73, died on July 28 in Breezy Point, NY. A resident of Mineola, NY, Mr. Reedy was a priest for many years. Born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, he went to seminary in Princeton, NJ, for high school, and was then sent to St. John's University in Queens, where he was a teacher. In 1984, Mr. Reedy left the priesthood and married. He worked at IBM before returning to education as a math teacher at Beach Channel High School in Queens. He then became an assistant principal, helping restart a school as the Brooklyn High School of the Arts. "He loved spending time in the classroom, even as an assistant principal, he still taught at least one class every year," said his son, John. Mr. Reedy retired in 2014. Additional survivors include his wife, Maureen, a brother, Jerry, another son, Brendan, and two daughters, Kathleen and Deirdre.

■ **ROBERT STRAUSSMAN**, 77, died on June 21 in Lake Worth, FL. Born in NYC, Mr. Straussman graduated from Stuyvesant High School in 1957 and earned a BA from City College of New York and an MA from Fordham University. After starting out as a special education teacher in the Bronx, he retired as supervisor of special education field services at PS 61 Francisco Oller in the Bronx in 1996. A New Jersey resident much of the time he worked in NYC, he moved to Florida 20 years ago. Mr. Straussman married for a second time in 1996. "He was such a wonderful, loveable, funny man, and he loved to travel," said his wife, Linda Singer-Straussman. Survivors also include two sons, Saul and David, a daughter, Hannah Moore, stepchildren Pamela Lutz and Michael Singer, a brother, Jeffrey, and 12 grandchildren.

■ **HILDA STRELL**, 93, died on Aug. 19 in Bayside, NY. Born in Manhattan, she attended Evander Childs High School in the Bronx and earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Hunter College. Her 36-plus year career began as a typing and business teacher at Woodrow Wilson Vocational High School in Queens. She worked as an assistant principal at PS 5 in the Bronx and PS 124 in Queens, and retired as assistant principal from PS 90 in Queens in 1991. Her husband, Joseph Strell, the former principal of PS 155 in Manhattan, died in 2008. The couple, who married in 1949, "got each other interested (in education), then me, my sister, a librarian, and now my kids are teachers," said a daughter, Claudia Block, a CSA member who retired as an EA in 2015. "She was an energetic person, who really lived life to the fullest - she played bridge the night before she had a stroke. She was the healthiest 93-year-old I know." Additional survivors include another

daughter, Lois, a son, Ethan and three grandchildren.

■ **SHIRLEY WALKER**, 88, died on June 19 from injuries in a fire in the Manhattan apartment she shared with her husband, Wesley Walker, a retired New York City Police detective. Mr. Walker died six days later of injuries sustained in the blaze. Born in Harlem Hospital, she was raised in Raleigh, NC, where she attended



■ Shirley Walker, former program director, deputy superintendent of personnel, and acting interim superintendent of Community School District 4, with her husband Wesley.

Washington High School, the city's first public high school for black students. Ms. Walker earned a BA from North Carolina University and an MA from Hunter College in NYC. The first member of her family to graduate from college, she wed her high school sweetheart, Wesley Walker, on Nov. 24, 1949, in a marriage that lasted 67 years. A teacher and then a program director in social services, she became a deputy superintendent of personnel in the mid-80s and then acting interim superintendent of Community School District 4 in East Harlem, retiring in 1994. "She always dressed to the nines and was an excellent hair dresser - she always kept her daughters' hair well groomed," said Sheryll Walker Bryant, one of Ms. Walker's three daughters. One daughter, Sharon, died in 2014. After retiring, Ms. Walker enjoyed shopping, cooking, traveling and visiting casinos with her spouse. "There was nothing she wouldn't do for her husband and family, that was her life." Survivors also include another daughter, Deborah, and two sisters, Edith Bailey and Eddie May Gray.

■ **MORTIMER WEINGART**, 96, died July 5 in Raleigh, NC. The WWII veteran, former Brooklyn resident and lifelong educator retired as principal of PS 144 Col Jeromus Remsen in Queens in 1987. Mr. Weingart and Charlotte, his wife of 52 years, traveled to 47 countries and 48 states. Survivors include two daughters, Joan Plotnick and Army Porter, and two grandchildren. His wife predeceased him.

■ **ANTHONY ZAMPRELLI**, 85, died on Aug. 2 in Poughkeepsie, NY. Born and raised in the Bronx, he graduated from Fordham Preparatory School and Fordham University. He married in 1955 while serving in the Army. An assistant principal at PS 3 and PS 86 in the South Bronx, he retired in 1991. A member of the Knights of Columbus, he and his wife lived in New Rochelle, NY, and then Rockland County, NY, for more than 40 years. "He was a great guy and I miss him," said his wife, Joan. In addition to his spouse, survivors include two daughters, Jennifer Ann and Kathleen Virginia Zamprelli-Slusz, a brother, James, and three grandchildren. A son, Matthew Peter, predeceased him.

To place an obituary, email Chuck Wilbanks at [chuck@csa-nyc.org](mailto:chuck@csa-nyc.org).

# Legislative Agenda | Herman Merritt

## Instead Of Complaining, Participate!



**"A**ll politics is local" is an old truism. And it doesn't get more local in New York than the City Council. So here's an important question: Do you have a relationship with your councilmember? If the answer is no, your school could be missing out on crucial support that is there for the asking. Let me walk you through a few specific ways the Council is relevant in your lives as educators. Probably the most important is financial. There are three major ways of obtaining funding:

### The gov't can still work well for those who get involved.

residents then decide which proposals to fund. Currently, only capital projects can be funded through this process.

#### Capital Funding

These are known as capital projects -- larger, long term investments in facilities and infrastructure. Examples include the construction of public schools and major improvements in buildings, from electrical wiring to the installation of windows to the building of gymnasiums.

#### Participatory Budgeting

A majority of members join Participatory Budgeting NYC, putting at least \$1 million in a pool in which people from the community decide how the money is spent. A yearlong process of public meetings ensures people have the time and resources to make informed decisions. Community members (like you) discuss needs and develop proposals to meet them. Through a public vote,

#### Expense and Initiative Funding

During each year's budget process, the Council and its members assign discretionary funds to not-for-profit organizations and agency initiatives to meet needs and fill gaps in city agency services and local projects. These "Schedule C" decisions specify how certain funds in the expense budget are spent. Applications for these funds go online in Jan. and are due by mid-Feb.



**M**eanwhile, Council members perform oversight of all city agencies. They convene public hearings during which they question city officials under oath, sometimes about issues important to your schools. The Council can provide transparency on matters that may otherwise be hidden from the public. Council offices should also be there to serve you directly as ombudsmen for schools, helping you navigate complicated city agencies. Councilman Ben Kallos, a great friend of CSA in Manhattan, has a "three-strike" rule: If you have attempted to contact a city agency three times and you had no success, his office will intervene and help you get your message to the proper person. I am sure that most, if not all Council offices provide similar resources. Councilmember Kallos visits every school in his district at least once a year and helps make sure each school gets the money and other resource it deserves.

If you didn't know your councilmember before, this is a perfect time to meet them. Each district will have elected a councilmember on Nov. 7. Call their office and ask them to come and tour your school, then find how they can be useful. Many people complain about government, but government can still work well for those who get involved. Like Councilmember Kallos, we ask you to use a three-strike rule with the City Council as well. If you have tried three times with no success to get help from a city agency, call us at Political Affairs and we will cut through the red tape for you.

*Herman Merritt is director of political affairs at CSA.*

## NATION Education

### PENNSYLVANIA:

#### Entrepreneur Class

Students will be thinking like entrepreneurs in a pilot program, called Ice House Entrepreneurship Training, that United Way has funded with a \$37,000 grant. The curriculum, geared toward 7th graders, is based on the book, "Who Owns the Ice House? Eight Life Lessons From an Unlikely Entrepreneur," by Gary Schoeniger and Clifton Taulbert. (goerie.com)

### INDIANA:

#### Readiness Coaches

Three school corporations that comprise the West Central Indiana Career & Technical Education Coop, will receive the Lilly Endowment's Comprehensive Counseling Initiative, which provides money for Indiana public and charter schools to restructure their counseling programs to ensure that every student has a post graduation plan. The Cooperative received a \$752,600 grant which includes the hiring of two coaches. (journalreview.com)

### NEW JERSEY:

#### No Homework

Educators and parents alike are getting on board with a "no homework" movement. Woodbridge Township, Princeton and West Windsor-Plainsboro have been experimenting with different no homework scenarios including taking it away altogether or having homework free days or weekends. Conventional thinking still maintains that homework helps students establish academic routines and better positions American students to compete globally. (www.nj.com)

### NEBRASKA:

#### Student Teaching

High school students considering the path of teaching have the opportunity to enroll in "education academies," providing classroom experiences with younger students. The introductory courses are part of a partnership with the University of Nebraska at Omaha and are being offered at over a dozen high schools. The program mutually benefits high school students and schools that are seeking to grow the pipeline of future, qualified teachers. The number of students entering the state's education programs has dropped over the last decade, though the K-12 student body has grown. (www.omaha.com)

### MARYLAND:

#### Lunch Buddies

A phone app, called Sit With Us, is helping students combat bullying. The idea is that students can find lunch buddies and nobody has to sit alone. The free app allows students to create a profile and to receive notifications about lunch meet-ups at their location. The app was created by a teenager who was bullied in middle school. (www.bethesdamagazine.com)

— COMPILED BY  
CHRISTINE ALTMAN



Moving Leaders Forward

## Sample The Workshop Offerings

Take advantage of workshops ELI offers each month by registering at [csa-nyc.org/pages/36](http://csa-nyc.org/pages/36). This month we are highlighting the following new workshops:

#### Creating a Safe Online Environment: Teaching Kids About Privacy, Cybersecurity

Location: CSA HQ, 40 Rector St., NYC  
Date: Nov. 8, 2017  
Time: 8:30 am – 11:30 am

ELI brings Fordham Law School's Center on Information Policy to 40 Rector St.. Registrants will receive the complete privacy educator's curriculum so that they can offer these essential lessons. Learn how to effectively teach students to protect their privacy and online reputations. Learn how can schools can teach youngsters to avoid sexting and cyberstalking. Learn the steps to teach your students so they can to protect their online reputa-

tions and guard against cyberbullying and account hijacking. Is online privacy an oxymoron? Register now and save your seat at this one-of-a-kind workshop.

#### BrandED Leadership: Become the Storyteller-in-Chief

Location: CSA HQ, 40 Rector St., NYC  
Date: Nov. 14 2017  
Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 am

This workshop explores the communication demands that today's school leaders face. Co-author of BrandED, Trish Rubin and ELI facilitators will take you step by step through this BrandED journey. All registrants will receive a copy of Trish's book, complements of ELI. In this newly competitive environment, school leaders will gain an understanding of the power of building and communicating a unique education brand. Learn the foundational tools that create a strategic storytelling skillset of your own leadership brand as you inspire your community to build their brand. Participants will create a new image, promise and result that speaks to their school's unique brand value.

#### Social Media

ELI has presence on all platforms of social media. You can find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/ExecutiveLeadershipInstitute](http://facebook.com/ExecutiveLeadershipInstitute) - ELI; Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/eli40nyc](http://twitter.com/eli40nyc); Follow us on Instagram at [instagram.com/eli40nyc](http://instagram.com/eli40nyc).



CHUCK WILBANKS

## New Administrators

■ The Executive Leadership Institute welcomed over 50 new administrators on Oct. 19 at its first School Based Intermediate Supervisors Institute (SBISII) meeting for the new school year. All professional development hours are CTLE approved.

## NYSFSA

# Busy Fall For New York State School Leaders

BY PETER McNALLY

September and October were busy months for the New York State Education Department, and thus were busy ones for the New York State Federation of School Administrators as well.

NYSED has been conducting regional meetings on school year calendar regulations. NYSFSA has been an active participant in these meetings and serves on the advisory committee.

Regional meetings have also been scheduled in New York City to discuss the proposed Professional Standards



of Educational Leaders (PSEL) and the NYSED Principals Preparation Project. NYSFSA has had representatives at these meetings and Moses Ojeda and Marie Guillaume, both from CSA and NYSFSA, served on the year-long advisory panel for this project.

A decision on the standards and the recommendations of the Advisory group will be before the Regents at their December meeting.

CSA also has representatives on the NYSED Board of Regents Early Childhood Committee which will be meeting in NYC, Rochester, Albany and the Lower Hudson

Valley. Christabel Quigley, Diana Gournadis and Dr. Eloise Messineo will be attending these meetings on our behalf to discuss early childhood education issues.

NYSFSA will also be joining our colleagues from SAANYS (School Administrators Association of New York State) at their annual conference and their meetings with legislators and the NYSED Commissioner in Albany.

Finally, the Federal Department of Education has not reviewed the state's implementation of the Every Student Succeeds Act, but we are anxiously awaiting their ruling.

*Peter McNally is the executive director of NYSFSA. CSA President Mark Cannizzaro is NYSFSA's president.*

GARY GOLDSTEIN

## Travel Desk

### Explore and Vacation, By Land Or By Sea



ELEANOR GOLDSTEIN

■ CSA members enjoyed an outing in Kauai, Hawaii this past July. Behind them lies the spectacular Waimea Canyon.

#### Cruise To Cuba

Dec. 1 - 8, 2017

Brand new Viking Sun. Some cabins may be available. Call Gary.

#### Sail the Caribbean

Jan. 3 - 13, 2018

Sail on the fabulous Oceania Riviera. Depart Jan. 3 from Miami and sail to: Nassau, San Juan, St. Maarten, Antigua, St. Lucia, and St. Barts. This is a luxury product at deeply reduced rates while it lasts. Rates include onboard credit, free internet and prepaid gratuities. Deposit locks in perks; available for a limited time only.

RATES: Begin at \$2,899 pp.

#### SE Asia By Sea

Feb. 18-March 7, 2018

Sail the Sapphire Princess RT from Singapore to Vietnam, Malaysia, Bali, Indonesia and Thailand. Call for rates!

#### Winter Sailaway

Feb. 17-24, 2018

Join the Celebrity Summit to Punta Cana, Nassau and St. Thomas sailing roundtrip from Ft. Lauderdale.

RATES: Begin at \$719.23 pp.

#### Tropical Costa Rica

Feb. 17-25, 2018

Winter Break; 9 days; 13 meals.

Visit Monteverde, Guanacaste, San Jose, Arenal Volcano, Tortuguero Natl. Park and more.

RATES: Include air. \$2,799 pp dbl; \$3,349 pp triple; \$2,769 pp single.

#### Spring Break 2018

March 31 - April 7, 2018

Anthem of the Seas, Royal Caribbean, will sail from the port of New York to Orlando, Nassau and Coco Bay.

RATES: Begin at \$1,039.19 pp dbl.

#### Summer Sail

July 8-July 15, 2018

Sail from Cape Liberty (Bayonne)

on the beautiful Celebrity Summit. We dock in Bermuda using the ship as your hotel for 3 days and return to Cape Liberty on July 15.

RATES: Begin at \$1,287.63 dbl. Ask for additional perks for this sailing as well as a window, balcony, concierge, aqua and sky suites.

#### Summer Sail II

Aug. 11-25, 2018

Adriatic and Aegean medley - Crown Princess. Departing from Rome. Sail to Salerno, Italy, Kotor Montenegro, Corfu, Crete, Mykonos, Santorini, Messina, Naples (for Capri and Pompeii), and Barcelona.

RATES: Begin at \$2,878 pp dbl.

#### Sail Portugal/Spain

Sept. 29 - Oct. 9, 2018

Enjoy two nights in Lisbon, and seven nights aboard the elegant Viking River Cruise OSFRID. Visit Porto, Regua, Barca d'Alva, Salamanca, and Pinhao. Options available to Madrid and/or Santiago de Compostela.

RATES: Begin at \$4,224 pp dbl. Loyalty discounts available. Add Viking promo air and insurance.

#### Reflections of Italy

Nov. 28 - Dec. 7, 2018

Visit Rome, Venice, Florence, Milan and Perugia. This is our fourth visit to Italy. Space will go fast.

RATES: \$2,999 pp dbl; \$3,399 single, including round trip airfare, lodging, sightseeing, transfers, and 13 meals.

#### Southeast Asia

Jan. 19 - Feb. 2, 2019

Visit Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, Hue, Danang and Ho Chi Min (Vietnam). Sail the Millennium (Celebrity Cruises). Depart Hong Kong.

RATES: Begin at \$2,060.73 pp dbl. Now is the time to lock in deep discount rates. Air, insurance not included. Inquire about perks!

*For more information, contact Gary Goldstein at ggoldstein@csa-nyc.org.*

## Services Initiative

# Calling All Veterans! UFT-CSA Collaboration

BY KATE GIBSON

**N**oah Angeles, principal of York Early College Academy in Queens, grew up with a Vietnam veteran father with undiagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. "Had my principal in my school known my dad had PTSD, maybe we could have been offered services," Mr. Angeles told a recent meeting of the CSA Veterans Committee.

Partly spurred by such powerful personal experiences, Mr. Angeles, himself a veteran, has taken the helm of CSA's Veterans Committee, now 150 members strong. His first mission has been to lead an effort to collaborate with the United Federation of Teachers on an initiative to help the children of vets.

Mr. Angeles hopes that in addition to the help it may afford students in NYC schools, the initia-

tive can set a "new precedent around UFT-CSA collaboration at the school level."

Since information about student ethnicity and other information is available in the DOE's database, Mr. Angeles argues that identifying the children of veterans should not be difficult.

Mr. Angeles is reaching out to NYC's Department of Veterans Services in the hopes of getting training for school guidance counselors on services available to veterans and their families. In addition to DVS, entities such as Blue Star Families offers free resources and services to military families.

Members of the Veterans Council plan to march under the CSA banner alongside the UFT on Saturday, Nov. 11, in NYC's Veteran's Day parade. And CSA members who have served or still serve in the military are invited to attend CSA's annual conference on Saturday, Nov. 4, free

of charge, as a means of honoring their service. On Memorial Day, members of the council will participate in an event on the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

The council meets about four times a year and is aiming to set pragmatic goals that recognize the demands of being an educator while still working to help meet the needs of our veterans. Members of CSA's unit have met with DOE representatives and, as in the case of Mr. Angeles and UFT, are working with veterans councils from other unions. The council is also establishing a lobbying agenda. CSA hopes that all veterans and those still serving in the military will participate in the council's work.

*If you are a veteran or currently serving in the military, please contact Mark Brodsky at [Mark@csa-nyc.org](mailto:Mark@csa-nyc.org) or (212) 823-2020.*

## The Welfare Fund | Dr. Douglas V. Hathaway

### Health Aid Benefit: Home Is Where The Patient Is



**Q**uestion: I am a retired special education supervisor. My husband suffers from the early stages of Alzheimer's disease. He fell and broke his hip, necessitating surgery and hospitalization. After surgery I could not leave him alone in the hospital because he required constant attention. He tries to get out of bed, he spills things on himself etc. Can I be reimbursed for the services of a home health aide even though he isn't home?

**A**NSWER: The purpose of our home health aide benefit is to help you cope with situations you have described. As far as we are concerned, home care is where the patient is. If you need medically justified assistance, and it is obvious your husband does, we will provide the coverage if he is home, in the hospital, in a rehab cen-

ter or nursing home. The key is, is the service necessary? And is it being provided by a trained professional? Remember also that if he is to be moved to a rehab center, the Fund will also reimburse the ambulance or ambulance costs since your Medicare or health plan does not.

**Q**uestion: I am an active EA in the Bronx. I have been a member of the Healthplex dental program since I became a CSA member many years ago. My dentist retired and sold his practice. I do not like the new dentist. What can I do?

**A**NSWER: You have a great sense of timing. All three CSA Welfare Funds (CSA Welfare Fund for in-service Department of Education participants, CSA Retiree

Welfare Fund for Department of Education retirees, and DCC/CSA Welfare Fund for Early Childhood directors and assistant directors and retirees) conduct an open enrollment for dental programs each November.

You may select any dental plan available to participants in your fund (for in-service Department of Education, your choices are Healthplex and SIDS), and the change will take place effective January 1, 2018. You may choose a different Healthplex dentist any time during the year.

A description of each of these dental plans is printed below.

*Dr. Doug Hathaway is the Welfare Fund Administrator. You may reach him at [dhathaway@csa-nyc.org](mailto:dhathaway@csa-nyc.org).*

## Open Enrollment Period: Dental Coverage

Each year during the month of November, as a member of the DCC/CSA Welfare Fund, CSA Welfare Fund or CSA Retiree Welfare Fund, you are afforded an opportunity to change your dental plan coverage for the next calendar year. Please review each of the plans available to you as summarized below. If you wish to change your coverage for the new year, (beginning in January) please call (212)962-6061 and request a dental selection form. **IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CHANGE YOUR DENTAL PLAN, DO NOT DO ANYTHING.**

### 1: SIDS Dental Program

**Active and Retired Members.** The SIDS administered CSA self insured dental program offers you the choice of selecting any dentist you desire. Reimbursement is based on a specific schedule of set fees. In addition, a substantial number of dentists have agreed to be participating providers and accept the CSA schedule of allowances as payment in full without any additional charge to you (except a small co-payment where indicated in the schedule). This plan provides reimbursement of dental costs with participating or non participating doctors. Using participating dentists, however, will substantially reduce a member's costs.

### 2: Healthplex Dentcare SIDS

**NY, NJ and PA, Active and Retired Members.** The Healthplex Dentcare Dental Program is a pre-paid dental plan (HMO)

which offers you and eligible dependents a unique arrangement that requires no claim forms or outlay of monies (except for a \$50 copay to cover some lab charges for crowns and \$125 for orthodontics). Members select a primary care dentist from a list of providers. The primary care dentist provides total dental care at no additional cost and, when necessary, arranges for treatment by participating specialists – for example surgery, endodontists, periodontists - also at no cost to the patient. Dentcare dentists are private practitioners located throughout New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

### 3: Delta Dental - Deltacare USA Plan 2A

**For Retirees Only.** This is a dental HMO plan which provides cost free dental care for preventive services such as cleanings, x-rays and exams. Basic services such as

fillings are either free or at substantially reduced fees. Major restorative services such as crowns, bridgework, and orthodontic care will cost the member 50% or less than the usual and customary charge for these services.

The Delta Deltacare plan is a most appropriate choice for members who reside in a geographic area in which there are few or no SIDS participating dentists or Healthplex dentists. The panel of participating dentists is broad covering the states of Arizona, Florida, California, New York, New Jersey, Washington D.C., Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, Maryland, Massachusetts and Virginia. A listing of dentists in your geographic area is available upon request. This plan requires a minimum of 7 members in a state. If there are not at least 7 enrollees, the plan will not be available.

Members who enroll in either the Dentcare or Delta dental plan may change primary care dentists during each annual enrollment period or at any time if they are dissatisfied with their dentist.

### 4: Healthplex - S200 Florida Program

**For Retirees Only.** Healthplex offers this new option for those retirees permanently living in Florida. The new Healthplex S200 program covers more procedures than the previous plan offered with CompBenefits, and had a greater number of participating providers. With over 2,300 participating providers plus hundreds of specialists in Florida, you may select ANY participating provider without a referral. There are defined co-payments for some procedures, and no additional reimbursement is provided.



# RETIREE Chapter

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Gayle Lockett

### Share Union History



### Outcome of Janus v. AFSCME may cause unions serious financial hardship

lection Day is over, and I wish I could say CSA's fight is over, but in many ways a new era of struggle is just beginning, as it is for all unions.

Besides advocating for increasing our cost of living adjustment, maintaining and improving health benefits and preserving our right of collective bargaining, our union's focus must also be on the outcome of Janus vs. AFSCME, now before the Supreme Court. For four decades, the law of the land has been that all workers who receive the benefits of union bargaining should have to pay the union, in the form of "agency fees," a reasonable cost for that representation – even if they didn't want to be members of the union. If the Supreme Court reverses this decision in June, many unions could quickly find themselves facing financial hardship.

How can we help our union prepare for such a possibility? It's crucial that you remind people, especially younger members when you meet them, of earlier days when we all made sacrifices. Tell them how a union has helped you in your life, and is helping them even though they may not realize it. As retirees, you remember the hardships in the 1970's, when the union saved assistant principals from being laid off. (See the letter from David Rothstein on page 4.) That's only one example. Share your stories about our union fighting for improved working conditions, benefits, wages or, relating how the union assisted you. I'm sorry to say that many younger members don't fully understand labor history.

#### What's New

We continue to reach out to our members who have been hit by hurricanes, especially in Puerto Rico. We are proud to have contributed money to AFSA to help provide essential items.

Thank you to our Supplemental Benefits Committee, chaired by Len Sterman, for reviewing and recommending that our CSARC Supplemental Benefits should be increased. Effective Jan. 1, the CSARC supplemental benefits will increase from 15% to 20% and reimbursements for eyeglasses will increase from up to \$55 to up to \$65. As you are aware, we have been providing retirees increases in the CSA Retiree Welfare Fund for eyeglasses, hearing aids and home health aides. These are just other examples of how our union supports and gives back to our retirees!

The CSA Conference, held on Nov. 4, was a great success. In the morning the RC members socialized and enjoyed a full breakfast before attending the RC general meeting. It was a privilege to honor Randi Herman, the former CSA First Vice President who worked closely with the RC, and Dee Dee Goidel, a strong unionist who was one of the first RC Officers and was responsible for forming many of the regional units. She served as the former RC Legislative Liaison to CSA and currently serves on the RC Executive Board. Dee Dee still finds the time to participate in four regional units!

With Thanksgiving approaching, I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving! Even as these times become more challenging, we have a great deal to be grateful for.

In Unity,

## ROUND-UP

# Recalculations And Reimbursements, With A COLA On The Side

BY CSA NEWS STAFF

*Here is some important news and announcements, in case you missed them.*

#### IRMAA Reimbursement For 2016

Members received their Standard Part B reimbursement for 2016 in June. Some received an incorrect reimbursement amount. The incorrect amount was based on 2015 rates instead of the correct 2016 rates. We have been informed that the amount owed will be reimbursed in October along with the 2016 IRMAA reimbursement.

#### COLA Increase For 2017

For the first time since 2013, New York State's Cost of Living Adjustment for eligible retirees has risen above 1%. The new rate is 1.2%, effective Sept. 2017. The COLA is based on 50% of the CPI increase for the year, as of March 31. This is calculated on the retirement allowance up to the first \$18,000. The maximum gross amount comes to \$18 per month.

To be eligible, you must be at least 62 years old and retired for 5 years or be at least 55 years of age and retired 10 years. Certain other beneficiaries are also eligible. If you meet these criteria later in the year, you will receive the cola at that time.

#### Recalculations Of Pensions

TRS has informed CSA that all members who retired starting March 6, 2010 through June 30, 2015 and received a retroactive

lump sum payment from the DOE have had their pensions recalculated based on those lump sums. TRS says that 1,519 members have had their pensions recalculated. TRS is now starting to work on those members who retired after June 30, 2015. They have not provided a timeline.

#### Social Media

CSA has a presence on all platforms of social media, so please join in. You can follow CSA and our Officers by clicking on any or all of the links below. You can create a Twitter account of your own by going to twitter.com.

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/followcsa/. Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/FollowCSA. Mark Cannizzaro's Twitter Account: twitter.com/CannizzaroCSA. Henry Rubio's Twitter Account: twitter.com/hrubio. Follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/followcsa/.

CSA also has a phone App. Search for Council of School Supervisors and Administrators on your mobile device. Once located, click "Get" to the right of the CSA app to begin the download.

To follow CSA on Facebook, on your personal Facebook page, use the search bar at the top left corner and type in "Council of School Supervisors and Administrators." Either "Like" the page or go directly to the page -facebook.com/followcsa. The more people comment and share our posts, the more vibrant the conversations will be.

## Defensive Driving Class

All retirees are welcome. Online registration is not available. Class will be at CSA Headquarters: 40 Rector St., 12th Floor. Register by mailing coupon below. We will send you a letter of confirmation. Participants must bring to class a valid driver's license and a current AARP membership card. Light refreshments will be provided and you are welcome to bring a bag lunch.

### AARP Driver Safety Program

Wed., Dec 27, 2017 at 9:30 am | 6 Hours of Instruction

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail coupon to: CSA Retiree Chapter, 40 Rector Street, 12th Fl., NY, NY 10006 or e-mail Lucie@csa-nyc.org. For information: (212) 823-2020, ext.2079. INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE AND YOUR CURRENT AARP MEMBERSHIP CARD IF APPLICABLE

Checks payable to AARP: \$20. for AARP members and \$25. for non-members

# RC Regional Units

## PACIFIC COAST

We look forward to hearing from CSA's Executive Vice President, Henry Rubio, at our meeting on Dec. 6 at 11 am at Mimi's, 22651 Lake Forest Drive, Lake Forest, CA 92630. Luncheon cost: \$20. Please RSVP at lamesagramsey@gmail.com or call (619) 667-0759. Mail check payable to CSARCPCU to: 5380 Arizona Ave., La Mesa, CA 91942. Members and guests are welcome. Questions? Please contact me.

— CAROL RAINEY

## SUNCOAST

Our 2018 meetings will be Jan. 23 and March 23. Specifics will be mailed to members and interested parties in early Jan. Questions? Call me at: (941) 383-0408 or email: captmikenemo@comcast.net.

— MIKE NEMOYTIN

## ROCKLAND ORANGE BERGEN

We had a great luncheon on Sept. 14. Doug Hathaway brought jokes and information about healthcare and the Welfare Fund. Our next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 2 at 10:30 am at the Nanuet Public Library. Doors open at 10 am. Our featured speaker will be Felice Hannah.

— BART BOOKMAN

## LOWER HUDSON VALLEY

On Sept. 15, members spent a beautiful afternoon at the annual luncheon at the Davenport Mansion. We honored three members, Marie Ciaiola, Mildred Rutledge and Estelle Seittelman for their many years of dedication. Everyone enjoyed listening to CSA Executive Vice President, Henry Rubio. Save the date: Our holiday party will be Dec. 8 at the Olde Stone Mill, in Tuckahoe. Please contact me for more information.

— JANICE IMUNDI

## SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

On Oct. 19, Norman Sherman conducted a comprehensive Medicare workshop. As part of our "Dine Around" program, we've arranged to have dinner at the Village Tavern, 1880 Congress Ave., Boynton Beach, at 5:30 pm. The cost is \$28. Please call Al Levy at (561) 742-3016 to confirm your reservation. Other events include: Dec. 11, wine and cheese party, 4-6 pm, S. County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach; Jan. 22: Health and welfare conference, 10 am-3 pm, includes continental breakfast and lunch. Details to follow. S. County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach; Feb. 12, Morning meeting and luncheon: Benvenutos Catering, 1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach; March 2 – Health fair, 1 pm, S. County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach. Please save these dates. We look forward to seeing you soon.

— LOIS TURETZKY

## BROOKLYN

Members met Sept. 20 for an excellent presentation from the Senior Medicare Patrol Program, and received information on how to preserve their credit history. Our next meeting will be Nov. 14, at St. Francis College. Representatives from the office of Social Security will speak and St Francis College will present their community programs. Our holiday luncheon will be Dec. 19. Save the date!

— ROSALYN ALLMAN-MANNING

## MANHATTAN

Our next membership meeting will be Nov. 3 at 1 pm at the Manhattan Comprehensive Night & Day High School, 240 2nd Ave., corner of E. 15 St. Our speaker will be Dr. Douglas Hathaway, CSA Welfare Fund Administrator, who will speak about "Everything I Forgot About My Retirement Benefits Since I Retired: A Refresher Course About Health Benefits." Dr. Hathaway will also provide information about newer benefits such as acupuncture and improved dental benefits. Refreshments will be served. Please confirm your attendance. Call me at (212) 421-2649 or email me at shw29@verizon.net

— STANLEY WILSON

## LONG ISLAND

The unit's Outreach program has scheduled two programs for the fall: The Nov. 10 meeting will cover Medicare, Social Security, Part B deductibles and IRMAA. Next, a meeting on Dec. 1 will be led by an attorney who will cover estate planning, living wills, health proxies, and more. The workshops will be at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm. To sign up, send a check for \$5. to Vic Ravens, CSARC/LI, PO Box 511, Plainview, NY 11803. All monies received will be donated to the CSA Scholarship Fund. In other news: The unit is also offering to subsidize half the cost of the luncheon for our members at the CSA Leadership Conference, to be held at the NY Hilton Midtown Manhattan Hotel on Nov. 4. Our trip to the Cradle of Aviation on Oct. 18 started with an interactive program and was followed by a docent led tour of the museum. Lunch followed in a private room at DJ's International Buffet.; The membership meeting on Oct. 31 featured NYS Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, who addressed state issues, and provided an opportunity for members to check for unclaimed funds from NY State. Thanks to DeeDee Goidel for arranging his visit.

— RENEE YARMOFF

## CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

Our next International Luncheon will be Nov. 10 at 12:30 pm at Koy Turkish Grill in the Home Depot Shopping Center on Route 9N and Union Hill Road. The cost is \$22 for a 4 course lunch which is being generously subsidized by your unit. You may send a check to Sandy Poris (check the newsletter or emails for her address) or pay at the next bagel meeting which will be Nov. 17 at 9:30 am at the Monroe Public Library in Monroe Township. This is a very important meeting: Felice Hannah has arranged for speakers who will offer a presentation on cyber crime.

— LUCILLE VECCHIARELLI

## QUEENS

Our Oct. 17 was a huge success. We had a wonderful time listening to speakers, conversing with colleagues and enjoying the cuisine. This luncheon is our annual "paramount" activity. Our next event is Nov. 9 at the New Lake Pavillion, a dim sum restaurant in Flushing. You already received all of the details on a flier. You can view the flier and other information on our website, www.csaqueens.org. Check it often! Contact me with questions at csaqueensretirees@aol.com or stermanlen@aol.com

— LEONARD B. STERMAN

## HEALTH BENEFITS

# Medicare Coverage Updates For 2018

BY FELICE HANNAH  
AFSA/CSARC OUTREACH LIAISON

*Here is an update of changes you can expect as you navigate Medicare benefits.*

### Social Security Number Removal Initiative (SSNRI)

The Social Security Administration is replacing current Health Insurance Claim Numbers (HICN) with the Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI).

The MBI will be eleven digits consisting of numbers and letters and will be unique to each individual. Social Security has been careful not to use a combination of numbers and or letters that may be offensive. Identifiers such as gender and signature will not appear on the new Medicare cards

Beginning April, 2018, people new to Medicare will receive a card with an MBI. Medicare Beneficiaries with current HICN will receive their new card with an MBI between April 2018 - April 2019.

### 2018 Medicare Part B Income Related Monthly Adjustment Amount (IRMAA)

A 2.2% cost of living increase is predicted in 2018.

IRMAA is based on your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) two years prior. For example: Income 2015. Filed taxes on 2015 income in 2016. Pay Medicare Part B Premium in 2017 based on 2015 Income. The threshold for IRMAA remains at income above \$85,000 single and \$170,000 couple.

Note lower thresholds for the following: Above \$160,000 / \$320,000 in 2018 will be above \$133,500 / \$267,000. Above \$214,000 / \$428,000 in 2018 will be above \$160,000 / \$320,000.

Part B deductible, premium and therapy limits, physical, occupational and speech therapy, are not available at this time.

### Higher Income Part D Premiums

MAGI \$107,000 / \$214,000 = \$13. + Plan Premium. \$133,500 / \$267,000

= \$33.60 + Plan Premium. \$160,000 / \$320,000=\$54.20 + Plan Premium. Above \$160,000/\$320,000 =\$74.80 + Plan Premium.

### Medicare Part D 2018

Initial Coverage Limit (\$3,750). After the deductible has been met (if it applies) by the beneficiary and the plan pays a percentage of the cost of the prescribed on formulary drug.

The beneficiary reaches the GAP / 'donut hole' when the cost paid by the beneficiary and Part D Plan reaches \$3,750.

Out of pocket threshold limit (\$5,000). When the maximum out of pocket (MOOP) cost of the prescribed on formulary drug paid by the beneficiary reaches the threshold limit the beneficiary reaches the catastrophic coverage level.

### Catastrophic Coverage

Beneficiary pays greater of 5% or \$3.35/\$8.35. Beneficiary will continue to pay the above amount for the remainder of the year.

• • •

### REMINDER! REMINDER!

Are You Out? As of March 8, 2017, hospitals must give the beneficiary a Medicare Outpatient Observation Notice (MOON) if observation service is beyond 36 hours.

When covered by original Medicare, under observation outpatient hospital stay is covered by Medicare Part B. You may have out of pocket costs for fixed copays, some procedures and / or drugs administered by the hospital.

In-patient hospital stay is covered by Medicare Part A.

It is important to know if you are an inpatient or outpatient. Your out of pocket cost could be exorbitant if transferred to a skilled nursing facility without a qualifying stay as an inpatient.

If transferred to a skilled nursing facility, Medicare will pay for the first 20 days of skilled nursing care following a qualifying stay of three full consecutive days as an inpatient in the hospital.

## Take An Adventure In Art

Thurs., Nov. 16 | CSA, Founder's Hall | 5 to 7 pm | \$40 per person

The RC is offering a paint and sip event. Grab a drink, take a seat and join us. An experienced artist will guide you through creating a painting on a plate. No previous experience necessary! We provide the materials and instruction to create your own original piece of art—in a fun and relaxing atmosphere.

## Welcome New Members

Amato, Bernadette  
Bilson, Nancy  
Brennan, Janice  
Communiello, Anthony  
Connelly, Virginia  
Cordova, Mildred  
Corrado, Craig  
Daub, Barry

Finn, Susan,  
Fusi, Virginia  
Garcia, Ezequiel  
Giordano, Gary  
Hanson, Barbara  
Hasty, Lorraine  
Holder, Spencer  
Kanian, Louise  
Kelly, Lawrence

Liotta, Barbara  
Logan, Ernest  
Maben, Diane  
Mcinereny, Mary  
Mctavish, Jean Schutt  
Nelson, Mary Theresa  
Panaritis, Philip

## Borough Briefs / In The Schools

Compiled by  
**Corey Bachman**

### Marking A Milestone



■ Assembled to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Queens Collegiate on Oct 10, were Sen. Leroy Comrie, Council Member Rory Lancman, Principal Jaime A Dubei, Community Coordinators I. Deneek Miller and Jonathan Ager.

Queens Collegiate, which opened its doors in 2007 as a public school while receiving support from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, celebrated its tenth anniversary with a ribbon cutting ceremony and a welcome back night for parents and families on Sept. 28. Elected officials, Senator Leroy Comrie, Council Member Rory Lancman, Assemblyman David Weprin and Councilman I. Deneek Miller were on hand to celebrate.

ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new dual language program at her school and shared the occasion with parents, friends of the school and elected officials. The Oct. 12 ceremony was followed by a reception with American and Chinese refreshments sponsored by Councilman Peter Koo. This is the first time that **PS 162** will offer a dual language program. Thirty-two first grade students have been enrolled in the program; half of the days were taught in English and half of the days were taught in Chinese. Sixteen students are English dominant and 16 students are English language learners. "Language is a means for human beings to make connections with each other and our world," said Ms. Lee. "Being able to maintain the native language supports a stronger bond between children and their family members and with their heritage. They will also be better prepared for college, for their career of choice, and to thrive as citizens and global contributors to a growing, diverse society."

### Manhattan (DIST. 1-6)

#### Blue Ribbon School

**PS 130** joined the ranks of exemplary high performing schools across the nation as a National Blue Ribbon School. One of only nineteen schools throughout the state nominated by the NYS Education Department, **PS 130** was recognized in

a ceremony Nov. 6 in Washington D.C. where each of the 342 schools (292 public and 50 private) were presented with a plaque and a flag as symbols of achievement. "Our successes are a reality thanks to the tremendous amount of collaboration, dedication, enthusiasm, and support of all our parents, teachers, leaders, and community members," said Renny Fong, principal.

On Oct. 3, seven high-level officials from the Brazilian Ministry of Education visited **Virtual Enterprise International's** National Office located at The Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Campus, as part of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program. The program brings officials to the U.S. to meet with their counterparts to exchange experiences and best practices in innovative high school models that can help better bridge students to post-secondary education and the private sector. The visitors attended class and interacted with Virtual Enterprise student-employees of Imagination, Inc. at **The Maxine Greene HS for Imaginative Inquiry**. They met Principal Stephen Noonan and discussed programmatic aspects and learned about elements of the VE's international program and how the VE program engages students in relevant cultural interaction and experiences.

Send Borough Briefs to Corey Bachman at [corey@csa-nyc.org](mailto:corey@csa-nyc.org).

### Brooklyn (DIST. 13-23,32)

#### Computer Science First Roadshow

A Google team visited **PS 375** in Crown Heights on Oct. 6 to present the Computer Science First Roadshow, a display of new curriculum and interactive activities it developed to show elementary and middle school students the importance of STEM education in general and the basics of computer coding and problem-solving in particular. Two Google employees delivered the hour-long presentation. The Google experts also offered real-life examples of how coding and STEM education can lead to educational opportunities and careers.

### Queens (DIST. 24 - 30)

#### Dual Language

Dr. Dolores Beckham, an educator for 38 years in the city's public schools, died in 2016. She served as principal of **IS 45** for 17 years. A few days short of the one-year anniversary of Ms. Beckham's death, her life and legacy were honored at an outdoor ceremony held Sept. 28 co-naming the northwest corner of 80th St. and 34th Ave. Dr. Dolores Beckham Way. CSA President Mark Cannizzaro called Beckham a "hero" and a "legend." He read a poem entitled "The Dash," representing the time one spends on earth between birth and death, suggesting Beckham had spent hers particularly well.

**PS 162** Principal Pamela Lee held a



■ **PS 162** in Queens celebrates the first class of its new Chinese and English dual language program. Pamela Lee is principal.