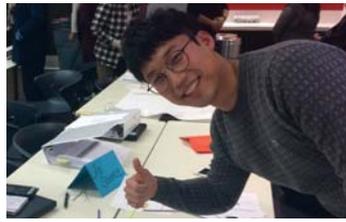


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CSA NEWS

COUNCIL OF SCHOOL SUPERVISORS AND ADMINISTRATORS

Feb. 2018

Volume 51, Number 6
American Federation
of School Administrators,
AFL-CIO Local 1

CSA Negotiates Extra Vacation Days For Summer School Work

Last year, the DOE lengthened the summer school instructional day for students. While your contractual work day remains the same, CSA has negotiated an extra annual leave day for principals in charge and two additional annual leave days for APs in charge of a summer school. These additional days must be used by Aug. 31, 2018. Please schedule these days with your immediate supervisor and enjoy the well-deserved time.

Supreme Court Case Draws Clashing Views

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

The country's public sector unions are facing a constitutional firing squad. Janus v. The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (ACFSME), the case that will decide whether members must pay their unions anything at all for representation, will soon be decided by the Supreme Court. The case has generated an extremely wide range of Amicus Curiae briefs, or friend of the court briefs – arguments made by people or organizations that are not parties to the litigation but who have an interest in its outcome or have a particular knowledge to offer the court. Here is a sampling of some of the briefs.

The DeBlasio administration offered a passionate argument in support of robust public sector unions, the very unions which this and other mayors sit across from in sometimes heated negotiations. In a lucid analysis that provided a wealth of historical context, Corporation Counsel Zachary W. Carter described a seemingly distant time in which strikes paralyzed the city. "Garbage piled in streets, children missed weeks of school, and subways ground to a halt."

Overruling Abood would strip jurisdictions like New York City of a vital tool that has for years promoted productive relationships with public workforces, the brief argued. "Over the decades, the reliable funding provided by agency fees has enabled the City's public-sector unions to pursue informed bargaining strategies that benefit the workforce broadly, rather than short-term or confrontational approaches designed to serve only the interests of those most willing to pay union dues. Effective collective bargaining regimes are time- and resource-intensive, and must protect all represented employees, whether active or inactive, member or nonmember. Financial stability helps empower unions to build long-lasting and constructive bargaining relationships with the City, improving the provision of public services to the benefit of all residents."

It also made a plea for the Court to allow states and localities to govern their own affairs, traditionally an argument made by conservatives. "We are a nation of many different governments – federal, state, and local – all with widely varying circumstances, histories, and needs that in turn may warrant different labor relations strategies." CSA President Mark Cannizzaro thanked the mayor publicly and privately for filing the brief.

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops noted in its brief that the bishops have con-

sistently opposed so-called right-to-work laws. Since 1891, "the social doctrine of the Catholic Church has contained 'repeated calls for the promotion of workers' associations that can defend their rights.'" The brief notes "the strong commitment of the Church to protect both the poor and vulnerable from exploitation, and the right of association from governmental infringement."

Michigan and 18 other (red) states filed a brief that blames "inflated compensation and benefits" for the fiscal ills of states and municipalities. The authors of this brief take the reader on a fiscal horror tour of America, from San Bernardino and Stockton to Detroit and Chicago, blaming labor unions (not tax policy or other complications) and their "onerous work rules," retirement plans, etc.

Debora Nearman, a systems analyst for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, also filed a brief. She is represented by, but is not a member of, Service Employees International Union Local 503, where she pays agency fees. In her brief, Mrs. Nearman says she "is not a member of her union because she opposes positions advanced by SEIU in collective bargaining and opposes SEIU's political speech outside of collective bargaining."

The position that most offended her was SEIU's decision to spend more than \$50,000 to oppose her husband, Mike Nearman, a Republican representative in the Oregon Legislature, who ran for reelection in 2016. (He won.) Mr. Nearman's political career has been backed by none other than the Freedom Foundation, which has bankrolled the Janus litigation. Mr. Nearman's work in the legislature has included the introduction of a bill to require the state's citizens to re-register before they would be allowed to vote in the 2020 election. It has gone nowhere.

Mrs. Nearman described herself as a devout Catholic who opposes SEIU's support of pro-choice political candidates and legislation. She also complains that the union has spent money supporting measures to curb climate change, opposing privatization of state agencies and other "legislative issues that have no reasonable nexus to wages, benefits, or working conditions." In short, she argues, unions continue a "trend of mixing bargaining and lobbying," and she should not have to pay.

For more, visit: www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/janus-v-american-federation-state-county-municipal-employees-council-31/.

President's Message | Mark Cannizzaro

With Janus v. ACFSME, The Fight Has Arrived



A Decision Against Unions Doesn't Necessarily Have To Spell Doomsday

Briefs have been filed, and on Feb. 26, the Justices of the Supreme Court will hear the arguments in Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Council 31, the case challenging the constitutionality of the fees paid by employees who do not belong to but are represented by a union. A ruling in favor of Janus would mean that non-union workers would not be compelled to pay "Fair Share" union dues. Nevertheless, they would continue to enjoy the benefits of union representation. In effect, the court would sanction freeloading.

Collective wisdom holds that because of the political views of the majority on the court, a decision against unions is inevitable.

Continued on Page 2



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

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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

Our Opponents Will Be Surprised

Court Can't Stop Us From Favoring Unions By Mark Cannizzaro

Under this doomsday scenario, members will soon be quitting, flying out of the unions, to avoid dues and save some cash. The thinking is that in short shrift, corporate and political forces will succeed in starving the unions out of existence.

Personally, I'm not buying it.

• • •

CSA will prevail. We're not a knee-jerk organization. Our members are highly educated thinkers whose lifeblood is the transmission of culture and ideas. We are nobody's fools and are fully aware that we would lose a lot more than the price of our dues if we were unrepresented at the bargaining table.

Collective bargaining puts union employees ahead of the game. In 2017, the typical union worker made \$1,041 a week, compared to the \$829 for non-union workers. Union women and communities of color enjoy an even greater pay advantage over their non-union counterparts. (1) We know from other studies that union-represented civilian workers in management and the professions earned an average of \$37.37 per hour while their non-union counterparts earned only \$34.60 per hour. (2) In terms of additional salary, there are lump sum payouts and ratification bonuses, all results of collective bargaining.

Unions address the needs of their members for life, not just during their working years. Our defined benefit pension and welfare fund benefits ensure we'll always be financially independent. During a recent visit to our retirees in Florida, I inquired as to their well-being with respect to their pension and benefits. One retiree shouted out, "We're okay, in fact we're better than ever before!" The more we read about the high-wire that many seniors are forced to walk in retirement, the more grateful we are. Only by choice will we return to the workplace after retirement.

Every day, we hear about threatened cuts to healthcare, including Medicare. Even with all the political pushback, none of us can rest easy. We've fought for and won enviable coverage so that when health related setbacks do occur, we and our loved ones can concentrate on recuperation without the stress of accruing long term debt. To keep this going, CSA has to constantly fight against the tide.

Black History: Civil Rights, Job Rights

On Feb. 1, at 1 pm, everyone at CSA Headquarters, in solidarity with AFSCME local 1733 in Memphis, observed a one-minute moment of silence to honor the tragic deaths of Memphis sanitation workers Echol Cole and Robert Walker. It was their deaths on Feb. 1, 1968, due to dilapidated equipment, which sparked the walkout of 1,300 of their fellow black workers. That strike brought Dr. King to Memphis, where he was assassinated.

"It's important to realize that in Dr. King's final days, he was lending his wisdom and passion to the labor movement," said CSA President Mark Cannizzaro. "Dr. King was in Memphis supporting the rights of the sanitation workers, and economic justice and labor rights for all Americans as well. As unions face an onslaught of 'right-to-work' legislation and legal decisions, we should all remember that Dr. King, early on, called right to work 'a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights.'"



Every bit as important is respect. We are school leaders, with reason to be proud of our place in society. It's hard for others to understand what it takes run a school. This union's responsibility includes promoting your accomplishments and safeguarding your dignity. We remind the powers-that-be of your worth and make sure you are treated as you deserve. This includes increasing opportunities for professional development, improving your working conditions and safety, and protecting your tenure and right of due-process.

CSA members know their history. Not only did unions bring about the 40-hour work week, the concept of the weekend, and the end of child labor, they've tended to lift all boats. The Economic Policy Institute recently reported that even non-union workers' wages would be between

5 percent and 8 percent higher than they are today if union density had remained at its 1970s peak. Without unions, the consolidation of wealth in the hands of the few would be even more shocking.

Those "few" have been fighting unions since the 1930s, but they declared all-out war in the 80s. Much of the funding for the Janus case comes from The National Right to Work Committee, in turn funded by the Koch Brothers and others who backed Scott Walker's campaign to break Wisconsin unions, and by the Liberty Justice Center, similarly funded by billionaires trying to erase protections for working people.

Unions brought us the 40-hour work week, the concept of weekends, and the end of child labor.

If the court votes against unions, operatives paid for by these and other groups will be knocking on your doors to convince you to leave your union. They hope to roll back the gains that unions have already made.

• • •

Most Americans favor unions and that trend is rising. According to a new Gallup poll, 61% of adults today favor them, an increase of roughly 12% in just two years. I don't think this is happenstance. As the wealth gap yawns wider, working people are more aware of how much they've been losing. Unionized workers are not so likely to be conned into defunding their own unions and weakening them enough to make them fade away.

"Right to Work" laws aren't about the right to work but about working for less. As early as 1961, Dr. Martin Luther King set the record straight when he said: "In our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans, such as 'right to work'. It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved the wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights."

This union, OUR UNION, represents highly educated professionals who proudly honor their responsibilities and change lives for the better every day. And, our union is responsible for ensuring the middle class lifestyle we have more than earned in dedicated service is delivered as agreed!

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, January 19, 2018

2. Monthly Labor Review, April 2013

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

Fighting For Our Members

After A Tabloid Attack, A Principal Gets a Hand



CHUCK WILBANKS

■ In the back corner of a packed auditorium at MS 80 in the Bronx, students joined parents, teachers, and administrators in support of the school's Principal Emmanuel Polanco, who's steered the school out of 'renewal' and into 'RISE' classification.

BY CHUCK WILBANKS

What normally would have been a routine Community Education Council on Jan. 18 meeting in the auditorium of MS 80 quickly became a boisterous show of support for the school's principal, Emmanuel Polanco.

Hundreds of people packed the stately room to cheer for Mr. Polanco, under fire of late by the *New York Post* over a spurious case that the DOE had previously investigated and closed. Many students attended, some carrying homemade signs. Under Mr. Polanco's leadership, MS 80 recently graduated, if you will, from Renewal School status, a difficult feat.

After the CEC officials concluded their business, CSA's Bronx Field Director Frank Patterson, until recently a principal of nearby PS 7 – Milton Fein School, addressed the crowd, offering a passionate defense of Mr. Polanco. He was followed by students, teachers, other school administrators and one alum who has gone on to a career in entertainment, Antonio Ramos, also known as Tonio Skits, who flew in from Los Angeles for the event. Numerous administrators from District 10 and across the Bronx came, and the entire ROTC program were there.

Here are his remarks. You can watch the speech on CSA's website.

My name is Frank Patterson and I am here to speak on behalf of the Council of Supervisors and Administrators. We represent 16,000 educators in New York

Baseless claims and mischaracterization of events show a lack of respect for our children, educators, and schools.

City – principals, assistant principals, educational administrators, supervisors and directors and assistant directors of city-funded early childhood centers, and many retirees. We are pleased that the CEC is being held at MS 80 tonight and we're glad to be here.

Everyone here knows that MS 80 has been in the newspapers lately. We are deeply disappointed in the *New York Post's* irresponsible and harmful reporting of the facts surrounding the school. The Department of Education informed the *Post* that the matter had been investigated and closed, yet the *New York Post* blatantly omitted that fact. Its mischaracterization of the story is reprehensible and indicative of journalism that disregards fact in favor of sensationalism and an anti-public-school agenda.

School leaders can be subjected to hundreds of stressful and thorough investigations over the course of their careers. Too often, the allegations are baseless, made anonymously by disgruntled members of the school community. The least the *New York*

Post could have done was report that the DOE investigated, found no wrongdoing, and closed the case. The *New York Post* routinely prints baseless claims against children, educators and schools. The practice hurts our communities in general, but our students particularly so: Children naturally want to take pride in their school, their communities and their families. Demonizing a school sends a message to students that neither they nor their school deserve respect.

As you know, it is difficult to turn around a school. Not long ago, MS 80 was a renewal school, but through the hard and creative work of the school's teachers and school leaders, it has climbed out of that classification and is now a RISE school. This is a rare and envious accomplishment and the professionals who achieved it should be commended and respected.

Naturally, turning around a school usually means someone will be offended along the way. However, this community knows that it was the students, parents and teachers in combination with Mr. Polanco's leadership that made this success possible.

It is now time to help this community heal and get back to the business of educating students. These students are amazing and need all the adults to remind them how wonderful they are, despite what we read in the paper.

Don't Forget About CSA's Scholarship

CSA established a scholarship for students graduating from a NYC public school who will attend college in the fall, including community college. The scholarship is intended for a student who shows leadership in or out of school, and for students who might have overcome hardships to reach graduation. It is not based on the student's GPA or SAT scores. We ask that you choose a student who you believe shows potential and academic promise. Each school may submit up to three applications. One per borough will be awarded and presented at a dinner at the LaGuardia Marriott on June 5. Each award is \$3,000. Completed forms are due to CSA no later than March 29. Do not have students contact CSA.

Questions: Email erminia@csa-nyc.org or call (212) 823-2025. See CSA's website for details: www.csa-nyc.org/newsletter/apply-now-for-the-2018-csa-leadership-scholarship.

Time To Apply For AFSA's Awards

If your child is a graduating HS senior, he or she is eligible for a \$2,500 college scholarship from the American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA). Five scholarships will be awarded to children of AFSA members. The application for the AFSA 2018 Scholarship Program must be completely filled out and postmarked no later than Feb. 28. Applicants now have the option to fill in the application's fields on their computer (or print it and fill out). Each of the forms can be downloaded. Eligibility requirements are:

- Applicant must be a graduating HS senior who is attending college for the first time in the award year.
- Applicant's parent/guardian must be an AFSA member in good standing.
- Award check will be issued upon college enrollment verification.
- Award funds may only be used for tuition, books, fees, supplies and equipment.

Don't miss out on this opportunity! Encourage your child to apply. For more information, see www.afsaadmin.org/scholarship2018.

Teachers' Retirement System

January 2018
Unit Values

Diversified Equity
Fund: 95.898

Bond Fund: 16.459

International Equity
Fund: 11.493

Inflation Protection
Fund: 10.359

Socially Responsive
Equity Fund: 17.322

www.trsnyc.org

Grievance Corner

Bob Reich

Together, We're Bound For Glory. Alone, Not So Much.



Unity and strength produce benefits for the wallet and beyond!

In 1941, Pete Seeger and the Almanac Singers wrote the song, Talking Union. At the time, the group was helping organize the Congress of Industrial Organizations, and they were trying to convince Americans about why they should join, support and remain loyal to a union. Much has changed since the song debuted: Seeger and his bandmates are gone, the CIO merged with the American Federation of Labor, and over the last several decades, union membership has suffered a steady decline. But despite many changes and the passage of time, the lyrics of Talking Union are as important today as they were then:

If you want higher wages, let me tell you what to do, You got to talk to the workers in the shop with you. You got to build you a union, got to make it strong

But if you all stick together, now, 'twon't be long. You'll get shorter hours, Better working conditions, Vacations with pay. Take your kids to the seashore.

It ain't quite this simple, so I better explain, Just why you got to ride on the union train.

'Cause if you wait for the boss to raise your pay, we'll all be a-waitin' till Judgment Day. We'll all be buried, gone to Heaven, Saint Peter'll be the straw boss then.

Now, you know you're underpaid, but the boss says you ain't, He speeds up the work till you're 'bout to faint. You may be down and out, but you ain't beaten, You can pass out a leaflet and call a meetin'. Talk it over, speak your mind, Decide to do something about it.

You got a union now and you're sitting pretty, Put some of the boys on the steering committee...

Right now, you're the ones sitting pretty. But in the late 1960s, school administrators throughout New York City were faced with a choice, to take risks, heed the words of Seeger, and organize. They fought and joined the union that you're a member of today. In 1969, CSA successfully negotiated its first contract with the City of New York. Base salaries were established. Perhaps most importantly, CSA and the City agreed to lobby the state legislature to permit CSA members to transfer their pension funds to TRS.

Today, that defined pension plan, which has been modified with improvements over the years, provides stable, comfortable lives for many thousands of our retired members.

Like everything else about the benefits our union has fought so hard to achieve, your fixed retirement system isn't something you can take for granted. It is one of the major targets of billionaires such as the Koch Brothers. They don't believe you should have a pension no matter how hard you have worked.

In the contract negotiated in 1980, Education

Administrators were recognized as a title for the first time. EA levels were created with a salary range. In the next round of contract talks, we will continue to support all members in our negotiations and other dealings with the city and DOE. These negotiations can be slow and do not always get all that we seek, but your union continues to fight for you. In the next round of contract talks, our negotiators will continue to support all our members in our dealings with the city. These negotiations can be slow and do not always get all that we seek, but your union continues to fight for you.

Unity and strength also produce benefits and successes that go beyond your pocketbook. CSA created the Executive Leadership Institute to provide support and training for our members. Your union lobbies elected officials and the Department of Education for ELI funding so you can participate in workshops that will keep you informed, provide support and help you to succeed. Meanwhile, the Union has successfully convinced the chancellor to expand the Supervisory Support Program and as a result mentoring support is available to administrators.

This column isn't meant to be an exhaustive list of the benefits and protections that have flowed from belonging to CSA. For example, I haven't even touched on the Grievance Department which I head and its work protecting your tenure and rights as school leaders. I am merely urging you to take stock of what you have, and just as importantly, why you have it.

We are entering a difficult time in unionism. But remember Pete Seeger's words:

"The boss won't listen when one man squawks But he's got to listen when the union talks."

Questions or concerns? Contact me via email at bob@csa-nyc.org.

Recognition

Three Kings Day



BRIAN DE VALE

Jan. 27 was a proud day for CSA and the family of CSA District 14 Political Liaison Melvin Martinez, who was honored at the Annual Brooklyn Three Kings Day Parade Dinner. He is pictured here (center) with his mother Maria Martinez and two brothers, Steve, a teacher, right, and Edwin, a paraprofessional, left. Both also work in District 14, where they grew up. The family's history goes way back in Williamsburg; their father, Eudalio, "Yayo" and Mrs. Martinez immigrated from Puerto Rico in 1965. Their father was a teacher at Nuestros Ninos Head Start program in District 14 for 34 years. He coached the neighborhood kids in baseball leagues for decades. Many he coached or taught become assistant principals and teachers in the community. Indeed, the field at the Grand Street Campus HS in Williamsburg is named after him. Melvin has also coached baseball at Grand Street for the past two decades. Many of his former players earned college scholarships and a few have signed professional contracts, including Dellin Betances, of the NY Yankees. District Chair Brian De Vale and Executive Board Representative Dr. Liza Caraballo-Suarez joined a group of fellow CSA members in celebrating Mr. Martinez's well-earned recognition.

NEGOTIATIONS

'Perfect Collaboration Between Members And Representatives'

BY DOROTHEA WILLIS

During the Spring term of 2014, educational administrators became increasingly concerned about how performance incentives were being distributed. There wasn't a unified opinion among EAs about what should be done, so Mark Cannizzaro, at the time the executive vice president of CSA, along with CSA General Counsel David Grandwetter, conducted several open discussions with groups of central-based EAs about the topic.

As a result of those meetings, Mark and David agreed to meet with me and Robert Lopez, now principal of PS 256Q who was a borough safety director at the time, to discuss inequities related to EA salaries. During several evening meetings over the next few months, the four of us talked about our concerns and what solutions we might seek. Some inequities were particularly apparent, such as the fact that salaries for EAs were not based on merit, work

responsibilities, or longevity in the DOE, but rather on the discretion of the hiring manager. There was very little possibility of being able to move vertically in the salary scale, as other titles allowed. EA's were the only titles that did not allow for salary step increases over time and to have the potential to reach maximum pay within their title.

Mark and David worked tirelessly to rectify that during negotiations for the current contract. When they held a question and answer session about the contract at Aviation HS in Dec. of 2014, they were gracious enough to publicly thank Robert and me for bringing the fight to them. This was, indeed, a team effort and we all put time into making this happen. Truth be told, Robert and I were only as good as our union officials who did the negotiating. I thank them for their time and attention to detail. It truly is a testament to their character that they persevered and were successful in having salary steps added into our current contract.

EA's deserve the same sal-

ary opportunities as all the other titles and because of CSA's commitment and effort we are on our way. EA's are on the map. The number of EA's has grown exponentially, and these two men heard the call. We can all be proud of the accomplishments that have occurred because of the time and determination of a few people. It was a perfect collaboration between CSA members and the union leaders who represent them at the bargaining table.

Everyone must realize that recent victories for EAs would never have happened without a union voice. It is important that we look to the future contract, unified and determined to make the lives of all CSA members and their families more secure with each passing year. I look forward to our next contract adventure.

Dorothea Willis is the borough director of student suspensions, Brooklyn and Staten Island, at the Office of Safety and Youth Development.

Tuskegee Airman

On the Wings of Black History



■ During a recent trip to Florida to meet with retirees, CSA President Mark Cannizzaro had the good fortune to meet a war hero with an exceptional story. The spouse of CSA retiree Gwendolyn West, Marion West was a Tuskegee Airman, one of the storied group of pioneering African American aviators who broke color barriers in WWII. Mr. West served as a radioman with the Tuskegee unit in Ramitelli, Italy. Despite a heroic record of more than 1500 combat missions resulting in 112 enemy aircraft destroyed in the air and another 150 on the ground, the Tuskegee airmen received little recognition in the years after the war. Mr. West opened a dental practice in Brooklyn and Mrs. West pursued her career in education as a supervisor of social workers. In 2007, then President George W. Bush awarded Mr. West and other Tuskegee airmen a Congressional Gold Medal. The couple lives in the Sarasota area.

Letter

CSA In Her Corner,
Member Weathers
Difficult Time

To the Editor: I would like my fellow members to know how grateful I am for the representation I received from CSA recently. Having to defend myself and my school community from an anonymous accusation was difficult, but the support that Assistant Field Director Wanda Soto provided me allowed me to focus on my job and our students. Ms. Soto's knowledge and professionalism gave me great comfort during what was a stressful time.

I commend CSA for making this unfortunate investigation focused and positive. Naturally, I pray that I don't have any other such allegations during my career, but I feel comfortable knowing you are in my corner.

—SHANIE JOHNSON
SMITH-BAUGH
Principal, 75X188

NATION
EducationSOUTH DAKOTA:
Best Buddies

Brandon Valley High School has expanded its Best Buddies program from 60 to 70 members and has inspired other schools to join. Best Buddies seeks to include special needs students in social activities and to form friendships with peer buddies. Each special needs student has a peer buddy and an associate buddy. The program extends beyond the school doors with several social outings. (argusleader.com)

CALIFORNIA:
Dreamer Allies

Educators are often on the front line, helping undocumented students understand their rights. Claremont Graduate University Professor William Perez, who studies the social and psychological development of immigrant students, has launched the first allies-to-dreamers certificate program, providing educators with tools and training on how to support undocumented students transition to college and work. (PBS NewsHour)

PUERTO RICO:
School Closings

More than 300 of Puerto Rico's (PR) 1100 schools would close under a plan from Gov. Ricardo Rossello — part of a large government reorganization. The plan would save about \$300 million by fiscal year 2022. A decline in enrollment of 27,500 students is expected, along with a drop of 7,300 in the teaching workforce. AFT President Randi Weingarten said schools are critical hubs that help overcome trauma and PR needs its schools to thrive. (blogs.edweek.org)

MICHIGAN:
College Programs

Early college programs are on the rise, offering students the option of staying in school an extra year to receive an Associate's Degree at no cost. Under the Early Middle College program, Michigan pays for a fifth year of high school, plus all college tuition credits and textbooks, shaving \$10-50,000 off the cost of education. Since 2013, the program has increased 69%, reaching 135 programs and schools and nearly 11,208 students last year. (The Detroit News)

PENNSYLVANIA:
Virtual Reality

Virtual reality is making its way into classrooms, providing teachers with another tool and students with access to environments beyond their schools. Some of the three-dimensional scenes students in Cornell School District, PA have accessed are: a deciduous forest, a Syrian refugee camp, the Great Wall of China and Ancient Rome. Cornell acquired the equipment through a grant. Graduate students at Carnegie Mellon got in on the act, using input from the students to develop Voyage, a virtual reality field trip. (hechingerreport)

— COMPILED BY
CHRISTINE ALTMAN

CSA President To Albany Lawmakers:
More Education Funding, Please

Governor Cuomo has submitted his budget and the NY state legislature is now wrestling over it, with a vote due by April 1. On Jan. 31, CSA President Mark Cannizzaro brought your union's concerns to lawmakers, when he testified before a joint panel of the NY State Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee. Below are some excerpts:

SCHOOL AID: We recognize the financial hazards our state faces this year, and the challenges that a projected budget deficit now present. Nevertheless, the Executive Budget proposal for School Aid falls far short from what our schools need and what the Foundation Aid formula otherwise requires. The Executive Budget proposes a \$769 million (3%) increase in education aid, including a Foundation Aid increase of only \$338 million. That's less than half the \$1.6 billion increase that the State Board of Regents recommended, and far short of the \$2.0 billion state aid increase the Educational Conference Board has called for.

CSA believes the state must commit to fully funding the Foundation Aid formula. In 2007, you enacted the formula to support all school districts across New York State, and most importantly low-wealth school districts. The time has come to fulfill Foundation Aid's promise. New York is now \$4.2 billion behind the full phase-in of Foundation Aid.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: CSA supports the Executive Budget proposal of \$200 million for community schools — \$50 million above last year's level. Community Schools work: They have transformed school buildings into community hubs that deliver academic, health, mental health, nutrition and counseling services to students and their families. The results have been nothing short of remarkable.

There are now 215 Community Schools in New York City, the largest such system in the nation. They confront the problems faced by most struggling schools — problems that are largely societal issues outside the school building. Students must come to

school ready to learn — and this can only happen if we recognize the limitations many schoolchildren unfortunately face every day. Addressing issues relating to poverty, homelessness, poor home environment, medical/dental issues, nutrition and many other issues is the basis for new services provided at a Community School.

SCHOOL LEADER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The role and work of instructional leaders has become even more crucial in recent years as policymakers have focused on supporting student achievement and eliminating college and career readiness gaps among our youth. To ensure that school leaders successfully manage and meet ongoing challenges as well as succeed as instructional leaders, New York State must provide our principals and assistant principals with access to ongoing professional development...

A number of years ago, CSA established the Executive Leadership Institute, ELI, a not-for-profit organization designed to deliver practical, relevant and essential professional development for today's school leaders. ELI provides standards-based, results-driven leadership training to help school leaders successfully fulfill their responsibilities as instructional leaders. We need to invest in more of this kind of high-level training and support...

We are grateful for the Legislature's support of ELI in the FY 2017-2018 state budget. This \$475,000 appropriation has sustained our work to provide much-needed professional development services and mentoring to school leaders working in New York City public schools. ELI works with other professional organizations to provide professional development for Long Island and Upstate school administrators too.

CONVERSION CHARTER SCHOOL SUPPLEMENTAL AID: CSA represents a number of unionized conversion charter schools. Our unionized conversion charter schools continue to bear "legacy" costs that date from pre-conversion. Our charter school members report that pension and

health insurance costs have risen dramatically in recent years, and can now comprise 12% to 22% of the entire operating budget for each school. Financial relief is urgently needed, as these costs are not covered within the regular charter school funding process.

We support a new category of support: Conversion Charter School Supplemental Aid, which will sustain the collectively bargained benefits of union membership, chiefly retirement and health benefits. Conversion Charter School Supplemental Aid was included in the Senate's "one-house" budget last year, and we ask your consideration again in 2017 to aid these schools' workers.

DIVERSITY EDUCATION PROGRAM: CSA supports the Governor's proposal to develop a diversity program for eighth and ninth graders. It is important that school leaders have access to lesson plans, best practices and instructional materials that promote awareness and respect for diversity in our schools and in the world. Funding to implement this initiative will be necessary, as well as careful consideration for when this curriculum might be implemented.

DREAM ACT: CSA strongly supports enactment of the "DREAM Act" to continue New York's legacy of educational support for immigrant youth who attend P-12 public schools. We support allowing immigrant students to apply for state financial aid for higher education.

SCHOOL-LEVEL FUNDING PLANS: We are concerned with the Executive Budget proposal to require New York City and other large school districts to have school-level funding plans approved by the State Education Department and the Division of Budget in order to receive additional State Aid. CSA's principal concern would be over the strong likelihood of this requirement resulting in additional delays in schools' receiving their budget each year. If such a requirement is considered, we recommend that an audit of the previous year's increase be implemented instead.

For South Korean Educators, A Visit to Staten Island Technical School A Must

BY CSA NEWS STAFF

For the third time in four years, a group of middle and high school science educators from South Korea attended a nine-day STEM symposium conducted by the Executive Leadership Institute at CSA headquarters.

The 31 South Korean educators were selected after a nationwide contest there that was open to science teachers in grades 6-12. The object of the symposium was for these educators to learn the best practices and instructional strategies as implemented in New York City classrooms.

The Ministry of Education in South Korea contracted ELI for full-day

School leaders collaborate to present best practices, instructional strategies from NYC classrooms.

sessions in physics, chemistry, earth and life science. Dr. Eloise Messineo, Executive Director, engaged the services of five members of the Columbia University Teachers College Science Department to develop and facilitate these nine days of intense work. Dr. Denise Mahfood, engaged with the seminars since their inception, was the lead facilitator. In addition, ELI staff members delivered a full-day seminar on the topic of 'Growth Mindset' to enhance the total experience.

The Koreans specially requested one field trip during their stay, a trip to Staten Island Technical High School, one of the DOE's eight Specialized High Schools. Its Pre-Engineering Career and Technical Education (CTE) program aims to produce graduates who are



■ South Korean science teachers were treated to a tour of Staten Island Technical High School's 'Makerspace,' a unique, collaborative and well-equipped facility which offers a diverse plethora of resources, from soldering irons to circuitboards, to the school's community.

well-rounded and equipped to handle the challenges of college and career readiness, through a rich liberal arts and STEAM curriculum, along with the opportunity to engage in a unique and innovative career exploration program via their in-house Career Development Center.

A major component of the Staten Island Tech CTE program is a school-based Makerspace & Incubator program. Makerspaces & Incubators are emerging all over the country, serving as places for people

to take their ideas and turn them into realities, in the process inspiring the next generation of entrepreneurs, innovators, and problem solvers. These unique, collaborative spaces support educators, local artists, designers, and people who simply want to be creative within their community.

In 2016, Staten Island Tech opened The Guild, its own school-based Makerspace, as a place where students can explore their creativity and work on their ideas. Students can spend free time (during lunch periods and after-school) in an environment where they are able to design and engineer their ideas in a

collaborative workspace. Additionally, faculty across all disciplines can schedule academic class time in the Makerspace to work on projects or teach specific skills. For example, a computer technology teacher can demonstrate soldering and programming of electrical circuits, while history and foreign language teachers can have students design and fabricate 3-D models of cultural artifacts.

Staten Island Tech is supporting teams of students and teacher mentors who showcase their talents by entering industry-supported competitions, incubating start-up businesses, and connecting this unique initiative to the community. These projects range from building solar-powered cars and underwater robots, to creating stained-glass windows and mosaic artwork, to designing apps for smartphones and other mobile devices.

Staten Island Tech's Makerspace is also an important destination for our NYC DOE District 31 VISIT Program, which invites fifth and seventh grade students from around the city to visit Staten Island Tech and learn more about STEAM education, high school readiness and what Staten Island Tech has to offer.

Accompanying the visiting South Koreans were ELI's Judith Wilson and Steve Cucchia. Principal Mark Erlenwein gave the group a tour.

For more information about Staten Island Tech's Makerspace initiative, contact Mr. Erlenwein at Merlenw@schools.nyc.gov.



CHUCK WILBANKS

■ In January, a 9-day STEM symposium was held at CSA headquarters to share strategy and practices with visiting South Korean educators. Above left: Dr. Sean Peters discussed integrating technology and schools. Above right: A Korean participant demonstrates his enthusiasm.

In Memoriam

■ **JEROME BARAZ**, 87, died on Nov. 8. He attended Brooklyn College, where he received his BA, and received a Master's in Psychology and School Psychology from City College. He pursued doctoral coursework at Harvard and Teacher's College. Jerome served the DOE for over 50 years as a school psychologist, supervisor of school psychologists and psychology teacher. He worked through the Bureau of Child Guidance, which oversaw guidance services in the schools. He loved both supervising and teaching and, even after retirement, continued to teach at the Fashion Institute of Technology and served as a school psychologist at Secaucus High School in Secaucus, NJ. In addition to his wife, Julie, Jerome is survived by his son, Daniel.

■ **LINDA BAZARNICK**, 70, died on Jan. 17. Linda began her career in education as an elementary school teacher in Hartford, CT. She went on to become a special education teacher in Queens, and eventually an assistant principal at PS77Q, where she served until her retirement in 2009. A few years after her retirement, she moved to Wellington, FL. Her son Todd said her biggest passion was her work with kids and he noted that former students are still in contact with the family. In addition to her son, she is survived by her daughter, Amy Boroff. Inspired by her mother, Amy Boroff sits on the Board of Education in Fanwood, NJ.

■ **STEVEN FELDMAN**, 70, died Oct. 21. He was born in Brooklyn, and graduated from Erasmus Hall HS. He received a BA from Long Island University, MA from the College of Staten Island, and doctorate from Nova University. He began his career in education at Eastern District HS, taught at John Dewey and worked on the reorganization committee for Franklin K. Lane HS. Mr. Feldman was AP English at August Martin HS and then principal of Hillcrest HS. He was one of the authors of Scope and Sequence, a curriculum for teaching English. After a hiatus from the NYC system, he returned as an Assistant Superintendent in the HS Division. He is survived by his wife Susan Feldman, his son Josh, daughter in law Robin and his beloved grandsons Cody and Miles.

■ **MAURICE GERSTEIN**, 91, died Jan. 2. Dr. Gerstein was a biology teacher, who went on to become an assistant principal of math and science at William H. Maxwell Vocational School in Brooklyn. He retired in 1991 and he and his wife, Marilyn, moved to New Jersey in 2000. "He was dedicated to teaching and inspiring his students to become the

best they could be," his wife said. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Leigh and Seth.

■ **LAWRENCE HERSTIK**, 81, of Monroe Twp. NJ, Boca Raton, FL and Warrensburg, NY, died Nov. 22. Larry was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY and received BA and MA degrees from Brooklyn College. He began his 40-year education career as a social studies teacher at JH 57. He taught at Lafayette HS, served as Assistant Principal at Seth Lowe, IS 96, and retired as Principal of PS 238, all in Brooklyn. After he retired, he embraced the arts and became a stone sculptor, watercolorist and writer. He is remembered fondly by his former staff and students. He is survived by his wife, Dayle, sons Neal, Ivan and Barry, seven grandchildren and his sister, Dorothy Bard.

■ **ARTHUR KESSELMAN**, 87, died on Jan. 12. Mr. Kesselman was a Fulbright Scholar in Germany in 1953-54 and served in the Korean War before going back to school to earn his MA. Mr. Kesselman began his career in education as a social studies teacher at the junior high school level. Eventually, he taught at the high school level and then went on to become an assistant principal and principal for over 20 years at August Martin High School. Following his retirement, Mr. Kesselman continued to work, taking satisfaction from mentoring new principals. He and his wife Delice enjoyed traveling, theater, concerts and tennis. Married for nearly 67 years, Mr. Kesselman was also the devoted father of Karen and Debbie and grandfather of Milo, Daniel, Emma and Jonathan.

■ **ELAINE LANDRUM**, 92, died on Dec. 26. Elaine attended New York City public schools, graduating from George Washington High School in 1943. In 1951, she earned a BA from Hunter College and, later, her Master of Science degree in Education from CUNY. Her long career with the New York City Board of Education included nine published scholarly works and appointments as District 19 deputy superintendent and superintendent in 1971-74 and 1974-76. She also served as District 5 deputy superintendent from 1977-79 and superintendent of District 5 from 1979-1982. She retired from the NYC DOE in 1982, but continued to work as a consultant, making frequent trips to Puerto Rico to evaluate and recruit new teachers. Following her retirement, Elaine moved to her native state of Virginia to be near her daughter Collette and son-in-law, Philip, who survive her. She is also survived by a sister-in-law Corita Berkley, nieces Beverly Berkley and Doris Strachan, nephews Roger Berkley Jr. and William Landrum III and a host of great nieces and nephews.

Send obituary notices to CSA News Editor Chuck Wilbanks at chuck@csa-nyc.org.

NATION Labor

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: NAFTA Complaint

In a complaint by US and Mexican unions to the US Labor Department, Mexico was accused of continuing to violate NAFTA's weak labor standards. The complaint was intended to push US negotiators to press for stronger rules. Much of the complaint is due to NAFTA's failure to lift low Mexican wages that have pulled US and Canadian factories and jobs to Mexico by allowing companies there to impede unionization. Historically, such complaints have not led to major change. (reuters.com)

CALIFORNIA: Rough Arrest

AFSCME criticized the rough arrest of a protester at University of California (UC) at Berkeley. The union said the incident "underscores UC's deplorable record and continued resistance on issues of racial justice." The middle-aged black man, a cook at a UC Berkeley dining hall, was reportedly protesting peacefully when he was arrested. He sustained injuries that required stitches to his eyes and nose. UC Police said the incident will be reviewed. (sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com)

NEW YORK Fighting Racism

Communication Workers of America (CWA), one of the largest unions in America, developed an intensive training to assist workers in understanding the political context of their struggles. The program, "Runaway Inequality," has been given to over 1,500 CWA members, with more signing up. Though the program began in 2016, it's gained momentum since the last presidential election. (jacobinmag.com)

VIRGINIA: Low Wages

Loudoun Education Association is reviewing pay for workers who are historically paid the lowest -- teaching assistants, bookkeepers, bus drivers and custodians -- and making adjustments to pay these employees a more equitable salary. Many of these workers seek second jobs to earn a living wage. Loudoun's Superintendent is proposing a 3.7% increase for next year. (The Washington Post)

TEXAS: DACA Teachers

Many school districts across the country have hired teachers covered by DACA. They have been required to renew their work permits every two years. Now with Trump's plans to shut down the program, these teachers, some 9,000 of them, are in jeopardy. Teachers unions and the National School Boards Association are backing a lawsuit filed last month that could prevent school districts from firing teachers whose DACA permits have expired. (npr.org)

— COMPILED BY
CHRISTINE ALTMAN

Legislative Agenda | Herman Merritt

Never Ending Fight for Social Justice



Fifty years after the murder of Dr. King, working people still fight for what's right

Fifty years is a long time, but I remember the assassination of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. like it was yesterday. On April 4, 1968, I was a high school junior. I recall being at a family dinner when we received the news. We were numb from the assassinations of the prior five years, Medgar Evers, John F. Kennedy, Malcolm X and now MLK. I remember the silence; the silence of hope being shattered.

What I didn't understand at the time was that Rev. King had gone to Memphis, Tennessee to support Sanitation workers. They were all African-American men working for poverty level wages and no health benefits. The tipping point was the accidental death of two men because of faulty equipment.

The workers were part of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and they struck in February for better working conditions, dues checkoff and a living wage. Their theme was "I AM A MAN." This was a response to the men constantly being called "boy," and treated with disrespect.

The city was heavily impacted by the strike. There were daily marches and many people were arrested. The City Council voted to recognize the union and settle the strike, but the mayor vetoed that arrangement. Dr. King was asked to intervene, and he believed that this strike would expose the need for economic equality and social justice, both for the sanitation workers of Memphis and for working people all around the world.

Dr. King organized a citywide work stoppage that was successful, but divided the city and sparked the Mayor to call out the National Guard. Dr. King continued to support the workers and on April 3, gave one of his most memorable speeches.

"Like anybody, I would like to live a long life -- longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now... I've seen the Promised Land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land"

...

The next evening, he was killed on the balcony of his hotel room. Local leaders called on the Mayor to meet the demands of the strikers, but he would not do it. On April 8, over 40,000 people marched peacefully with Coretta Scott King to call for the end of the strike. A week later, with the assistance of President Lyndon B. Johnson, the strike was settled.

Fast forward 50 years. There has been progress in every area of American life. Still, the expression, "the more things change, the more they remain the same," has never been more appropriate. AFSCME is sponsoring A WORKING PEOPLE'S DAY OF ACTION at Foley Square in Manhattan on Feb. 24, the fiftieth anniversary of the first march in Memphis. That's also two days before oral arguments will be presented in the case of Janus v. AFSCME.

All these years later, working people must still fight for the same protections that Dr. King and the sanitation workers fought for and won. The theme of this march is I AM 2018. This movement will culminate in Memphis with events scheduled to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. King's murder.

CSA has endorsed this action and I hope to see many members there that day. What a great way to commemorate Black History Month.

Herman Merritt is director of political affairs at CSA.

The Welfare Fund

Dr. Douglas V. Hathaway

Reimbursements For Prescription Drugs And Co-Pays



Question: I am a retired high school principal and covered by Medicare and GHI. Every February I receive a check for \$480 from the Welfare Fund. I do not mind receiving checks in the mail, but please refresh my memory and let me know why I am getting this check.

ANSWER: My pleasure. The check you receive is to help pay for the cost of the prescription drug rider for those who are covered by the GHI Enhanced Medicare Part D drug plan.

Prior to Medicare Part D, the Retiree Welfare Fund

reimbursed prescription drug copays for all retirees after the end of the year. With implementation of Medicare Part D back in 2005 we were prohibited from doing so for those in the GHI Enhanced Part D drug plan. Had we reimbursed copays our participants would never get into the "donut hole" or coverage gap, and, as a result, pension deductions for all City retirees would go up.

We analyzed our reimbursements over the previous few years and determined that \$40 per month, for one family member in the GHI Enhanced Part D drug plan, would correspond to the copay reimbursements made before Part D. Since you were in the GHI Enhanced Part D plan for 12 months the previous year, you received \$480.00.

If your prescription costs exceed the coverage gap, and you actually pay more than the out of pocket maximum (TrOOP) of \$5,000 in 2018, the Retiree Welfare Fund will reimburse up to \$5,000 of your additional copays, with no deductible.

For those Medicare participants in a plan other

than the GHI Enhanced Part D plan we can continue to reimburse your copays. Please send us a report from the pharmacy showing what you paid as well as what the plan paid.

For those retirees not yet Medicare eligible, we continue to reimburse 80% of the copays you and your eligible dependents incur (after taking a \$100 welfare fund deductible). If you are a chapter member, the chapter reimburses an additional 15% of what the welfare fund pays (the chapter percentage increases to 20% for 2018 claims).

If you are an active in-service Department of Education participant and a spouse or domestic partner has coverage, we will reimburse the spouse or partners copays at 100%, as well as dependent children who are primary under a spouse/partner due to the "birthday rule."

Dr. Douglas A. Hathaway is CSA Welfare Fund Administrator. You can email him at dhathaway@csa-nyc.org.

GARY GOLDSTEIN

Travel Desk

Vacation, Explore On Land Or By Sea

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/Aegean medley - Crown Princess. Depart 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, 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.



■ In Dec., CSA members saw the Havana Skyline from El Morro Fort, in Havana Cuba.

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

Winter Escape

Jan. 5-17, 2019

Cruise on the newly refurbished Celebrity Summit as we depart San Juan Jan. 5 and sail to some of the gems of the Caribbean: St. Croix, St. Martin, St. Lucia, Grenada, Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent, Martinique, Dominica, Antigua and St. Kitts.

RATES: Begin at \$1,485.20 pp double incl. port and gov't. charges. Air and optional insurance not included. Air will be available for booking by the end of Feb. 2018.

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!

Caribbean Sailaway

Feb. 16-23, 2019

Sail from Ft. Lauderdale to Grand Cayman, Roatan, Belize and Cozumel. This is a seven day cruise aboard the elegant Caribbean Princess.

RATES: Begin at \$1,024 pp including port and government charges. Air is not included (available in March

2018). Reserve now for additional perks on this sailing.

Iceland - Fire And Ice

April 18-26, 2019

Tour Reykjavic, the Golden Circle natural wonder, Thingvellir National Park, Gulfs Waterfall, Snaefellsnes Peninsula and more, whale watching (if available). We have been given 42 seats. These will go quickly!

RATES: \$4,049-dbl; \$4,699-single; \$3,999 triple guaranteed (space available) until 10/19/2018 - Includes sightseeing, lodging, baggage handling, 6 dinners, 7 breakfasts, rt air from NY JFK (inquire about other departure cities). Insurance available.

Paris and Normandy

August 18-25, 2019

Sail the beautiful Viking Rolf (Viking River Cruises). Embark the vessel in Paris and sail the Seine visiting Vernon, Rouen, Les Andelys, and the Normandy Beaches bearing witness to our heroic troops who landed during WWII.

RATES: Deep discount rates begin at \$2,774. double. Additional discounts may apply including current air promo of \$395.00 (may expire anytime) roundtrip from NY/NJ. Paris extension is available Call or email for application.

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

The Galapagos On Your Bucket List?

If you may be interested in joining a CSA group (probably Summer 2019) aboard one of Celebrity's small ships please forward an email to me at ggoldstein@csa-nyc.org. The program will also include a pre-cruise stop in Quito, Ecuador. Look to the next edition of CSA News for details regarding the program.

Freedom Of Association

Fraternity: Organizations Old and New For You

BY NANCY RUSSO

If you know someone with a NYC public high school yearbook from before the mid 1960's, take a look through it. You'll notice that the only supervisory title that existed was principal. There was no assistant principal administration, no assistant principal organization, no assistant principal personnel, etc. The old high schools had enrollments of as many as 4,000 students, and offered a diverse curriculum. Each subject area was managed by a chairman. If a woman headed a department, she too was a chairman.

What followed formed the foundation of your union, and the living standards you enjoy today. The federation of supervisory groups and other associations that represented supervisors and administrators banded together in Jan. 1962 and formed the Council of School Supervisory Associations (CSA). In 1968, there was a name change,

dropping the two words School Supervisory to become the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators. CSA became a labor union, thus keeping the original initials: CSA. In 1970, the Board of Education changed the title of department chair to assistant principal supervision. Once our union was recognized as the legal entity

to negotiate our contract, our job descriptions, our salary steps and other union related issues with the NYC Board of Education, the old high school titles were eliminated and the new titles that we are familiar with today came into existence.

Our union stands strong and bold and proud because of those who stood together many years ago to demand recognition for the professionals who serve the children and families of this great city. Hats off to those associations whose history goes back to before the 1960's, and hats off to newer associations created when the newer titles were established. All the associations are dedicated to their members and increase the power of our union.

Whatever your position, all members can find support in an association that represents your particular concerns. CSA has collected data on these organizations, and below is our current list.

FYI: The next meeting of the NY City Association of Assistant Principals Supervision - English (NYCAAPSE) will be on March 22 at The Learning Center at the National Archives Building, 1 Bowling Green, NY, NY 10004. The topic of the meeting: Reading, Writing and Conversing About Race, Gender and Identity in the ELA Classroom. Members will receive an official invitation, but you can RSVP now to Barbara Rothenberg (bbrothen@aol.com).

Middle School Principals Association (MSPA)

President: Clemente Lopes IS10Q, cloyes@schools.nyc.gov

Vice President: Ramon Gonzalez rgonzal@schools.nyc.gov

Secretary: Dale Kelly

Treasurer: Dr. John Barbella jbarbel@schools.nyc.gov

High School Assistant Principals' Association (HSAPA)

President: Nancy Russo, nonnieor@aol.com, 914-374-8102

Vice President: Nancy Fernandez,

Secretary: Sharon Santana

Treasurer: Nancy Russo

Association of Assistant Principals (AAP)

President: Steffani Fanizzi PS153K, sfanizzi@schools.nyc.gov
Vice President: Debra Handler, Joan Mitchel, Joseph Simone, Katerina Sidbury
Secretary: Wanda Ramirez, Gail Irizarry
Treasurer: Alejandro Fernandez

High School Principals Association (HSPA)

President: David Jimenez, Pres. Djimenez2@schools.nyc.gov; Moses Ojeda, Pres. Elect, mojeda3@schools.nyc.gov
Treasurer: Anthony Barbetta abarbet@schools.nyc.gov

NYC Elementary School Principals Association (NYCESPA)

President: Dr. L. Caraballo-Suarez, lcaraballo@schools.nyc.gov, 718-455-1000 x400
Vice President: Chris Ogno, Olivia Francis-

Webber. George Andrew, Elizabeth Jarrett
Secretary: Susan Hoffman

Treasurer: Luis Torres

Professional Association of Day Care Directors

President: Gary King, Putnam DCC, glkputnam@aol.com, 718-453-5001, 706 Quincy St., Bklyn 11221

Vice President: Larry Provette 917-991-3714

Secretary: Cynthia Sanders, 34-235-2091, casheee@aol.com

Treasurer: Leonard Fennell, 917-974-0135 lencharlot@aol.com

Education Administrators Association (EAA)

President: Winnie Bracco, wbracco@schools.nyc.gov, 718-642-5741; Co-Pres. William Woods, wwwoods@schools.nyc.gov
Vice President: Nancy Woods, nwoods@schools.nyc.gov; Co-VP Noreen DeLuca ndeluca@schools.nyc.gov
Secretary: Ginger Brown, Gbrown27@schools.nyc.gov; Co-Sec'y: Joanne Giuliano Jgiulia1128@gmail.com
Treasurer: Renee Raines, rraines@schools.nyc.gov

Assistant Principals, Health & Physical Education

President: Jeff Engel, LIC High School, 718 545-7095 ext. 2801 jengel3@schools.nyc.gov, cell 551 999-2659
Vice President: Mark Delia, Thomas Edison Vocational School, mdelia@schools.nyc.gov, 718-297-6580

Association of Mathematics Assistant Principals of New York City (AMAPS)

President: Pat Lazo, Midwood HS 917-992-4638, plazo@schools.nyc.gov

Vice President: Jenisha Thompson, Newtown HS, Jthomps19@schools.nyc.gov, 718-595-8400 work 917-748-0576 cell

Secretary: Celia Foster (Corresponding), Grover Cleveland HS, 917-913-7814

Cfoster3@schools.nyc.gov; Kathy Grandchamps, York Early College Academy

kgrandchamps@schools.nyc.gov

Treasurer: Susan Rohan, Benjamin Cardozo HS Srohan2@schools.nyc.gov

718-279-6500 work, 917-648-3825 cell

NYC Association of Assistant Principals Supervision - English (NYCAAPSE)

President: Barbara Rothenberg, retired, BBRothen@aol.com, 212-929-5753, 59 Morton St., NY NY 10014

Vice President: Ellen Scheinbach 5410 Netherland Ave., Bx, NY 10471, 718-796-6898 eschein@pipeline.com

Secretary: Suzanne Thomas, Midwood HS, 347-525-3291, sthomas14@schools.nyc.gov

Treasurer: Lila Rieman, retired 870 President St., Brooklyn NY 11215

718-783-5749 Lilarieman@gmail.com

Science Supervisors Association of NYC (SSANYC)

President: Harold Meiselman, Clara Barton HS, hmeisel@schools.nyc.gov, 718-636-4901 x453

Program Director: Alan Ascher alanascher@gmail.com

Secretary: Theresa Ocol, FDR HS

toocol@schools.nyc.gov

Treasurer: Beth Burg bburg@schools.nyc.gov, Susan E. Wagner HS 718-698-4200 ext. 3561

Special School Administrators Professional Association (SSAPA)

President: Dr. Kuvana Jones, PS 12X, KJones7@schools.nyc.gov, 718-409-9040

Vice President: Heather Leykam P53K, HLEYkam@schools.nyc.gov, 718-832-3563

Treasurer: Nira Schwartz-Nyitra P396K, 718-385-6200, NNyitra@schools.nyc.gov

Social Studies Supervisors Association of NYC (SSSA)

President: Jack Chan, New Utrecht HS, pchan2@schools.nyc.gov, 718-864-0161

Vice President: Jonathan Barnett, jbnarnet@schools.nyc.gov

Secretary: Justin Monaco, Monaco, justin1@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Lonborg, DLonborg@schools.nyc.gov, 216-718-358-2005

Association of Dominican-American Supervisors and Administrators (ADASA)

President: Emmanuel Polanco Epolanco2@adaso.org

Vice President: 1st VP Marybelle Ferreira mferrei@schools.nyc.gov 10X080;

2nd VP Vivian Bueno

Secretary: Corres. Secy - Socorro Diaz, Sdiaz3@schools.nyc.gov BFSC; Recording Secy. - Tammy Nin, tnin@schools.nyc.gov

Treasurer: Yecenia De la Rosa, ydelaro@schools.nyc.gov

Newly Founded Association Of Haitian School Leaders

BY DR. YVROSE PIERRE

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Society of Haitian School Administrators (SHSA). The SHSAs' mission is centered on creating a platform where the expertise of established administrators will promote culture and leadership to all of its members. This professional organization was founded by a group of dedicated, talented, resilient and experienced Haitian School Administrators. Its members are principals, assistant principals and education administrators. As school administrators of Haitian descent, we strongly believe that education is the root that gives strength to the will of the Haitian people. As such, at SHSA, we aim to support school leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education



■ From left to right: Edu Hermelyn, Pauline Dorsaint, Dr. James Philemy, CSA President Mark Cannizzaro, Dr Max Jean Paul, Dr. Yvrose Pierre, CSA Assistant Field Director Nancy Esposito, and CSA Executive Vice President Henry Rubio.

for all children. That mirrors CSA's vision of equity, unionism, professional development

and fraternal collaboration.

As a newly formed organization under the Council of School

Administrators and Supervisors' umbrella, SHSA extends a special thanks to CSA President

Mark Cannizzaro, Executive Vice President Henry Rubio & First Vice President Rosemarie Sinclair for their warm welcome. We also extend a heartfelt thank you to CSA Assistant Field Director Nancy Esposito for her unbending support and insights. SHSA currently has an active executive board and a general membership. We will meet monthly at convenient locations throughout New York City. As we celebrate this milestone, the Executive Board of SHSA will hold our first general meeting in April, at a date soon to be determined, at CSA headquarters, 40 Rector Street New York, NY, 10006. For more information contact Max Jean Paul, at maxjpdoe@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Dr. Yvrose Pierre is principal of PS 753 in Brooklyn.



RETIREE Chapter

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Gayle Lockett

Information On Benefits And More



In Jan., it was a pleasure to visit our two regional units in Florida. Both are amazing and continually adding new members. I wish to extend to each unit leader and their executive boards a special thank you. The Southeast (West Palm Beach) unit leader, Dr. Lois Turetzky, and the Suncoast (Sarasota) unit leader, Michael Nemoytin, (aka Mike and Captain Nemo), are happy to greet snowbirds from the North to attend their meetings. A special shoutout goes to Norm Sherman, Florida's Outreach Coordinator.

Mark Cannizzaro, CSA President and Dr. Douglas Hathaway, Welfare Fund Administrator were guest speakers at the Florida units. Among other things, our union president spoke about CSA's charity donations for this year. In addition to supporting our Scholarship Fund, which recognizes college-bound high school students demonstrating leadership potential, this year CSA has donated to Shane's Inspiration, which helps build playgrounds for disabled children. One will be opening up in Brooklyn this year!

Dr. Hathaway informed our members of the new supplemental benefits we received. At the Southeast Unit, he gave a presentation on retiree benefits. As

usual, he graciously answered many questions. In March, he will provide the presentation to the Suncoast Unit. One of the many benefits of being an RC member is that members can join one or more of our 16 units, and attend meetings to stay informed when our CSA Officers, Dr. Hathaway and guest speakers bring updates and information.

At the Suncoast Unit, we were proud to meet Marion W. West, a Tuskegee Airman. At the start of the meeting, Michael Nemoytin, the unit leader for 15 years, announced he will be retiring, and Cindy Salomone will be the new leader. Michael, thank you for your leadership and dedicated service you provided to CSA and its members.



Looking ahead, it is time for a new survey to see how the Retiree Chapter is serving its members and to get your input. We are in the process of preparing the new survey and expect to send it out via email sometime in June. Although we continue to receive excellent feedback and constructive suggestions since the former survey 3 years ago, it is important to have current feedback, especially since each year new colleagues are joining the Retiree Chapter.

Kudos to the Educational/Cultural Coordinators and committee members for another fantastic selection of activities and events. Register early to get your first choices!

Check CSA's website for up to date information and news. We encourage members to join us at Yankee Stadium on June 15. Proceeds from this event will go to the CSA Scholarship Fund. For more information, always check the website and look for the RC updates sent by email and CSA News.

In Unity,

Special RC Event Will Be At Mohonk Mountain House, Historic Landmark

BY MARK BRODSKY

The Retiree Chapter has booked a block of rooms for Mohonk's Music Week Mon. June 18 through Wed., June 20. This getaway also offers a full day, one night and two night stay. It will be a fantastic time with Big Band, classical, riverboat jazz, opera, bluegrass, chamber ensemble, and rock n roll! Three concerts a day will be performed in a beautiful natural setting.

The Mohonk Mountain House is a historic resort hotel in Ulster County, NY. Its prominent location in the town of New Paltz is just beyond the southern border of the Catskill Mountains, west of the Hudson River. Mohonk Mountain House is a member of Historic Hotels of America, the official program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Only 90 miles north of New York city, it's surrounded by 40,000 acres of pristine forest. It offers farm-to-table cuisine and an award-winning spa.

Mohonk Mountain House has received dozens of awards from magazines and news outlets. *Condé Nast Traveler* has given it nine awards since 2008, including "Number One Resort Spa in the United

States" (2013). *Travel + Leisure* has given the resort seven awards since 2009. *USA Today* rated it one of the 10 best historical hotels in the US in 2017. Mohonk has also received numerous, repeated awards from *Spafinder Wellness*, *Organic Spa Magazine*, *Spas of America*, and *Spa*. *Fodor's* listed it as one of "10 Best Spa Trips" for 2012. In 2011, *Every Day with Rachael Ray* called Mohonk one of it's favorites. The resort has received awards from *Wine Spectator Magazine* and *Wine Enthusiast Magazine*, and has garnered awards for being green and eco-friendly.

Amenities include: archery, a barn museum, basketball, a bathing beach, biking, a billiard room, board games, boating (rowboats, paddleboats, canoes, kayaks), campfires, fishing, a fitness center with daily classes, a game room, garden tours, golf (no green fees), hiking, house history tours, jogging, lawn games, library, playground, indoor pool, putting green, sightseeing, TV rooms, tomahawk throwing, tennis, and afternoon tea and cookies.

The SPA offers relaxation verandas, a solarium (connected to a stone fireplace and complimentary tea bar with a view of the mountainside), outdoor heated mineral pool, men's and women's changing rooms each

complete with a eucalyptus steam room and dry rock sauna. The fitness center has strength, cardio and free weights. Classes in meditation and a variety of yoga styles can be scheduled. Additional Amenities (fees apply) include spa services, mountain biking, rock climbing, horseback riding, carriage rides and electric golf carts.

Rooms all have a telephone, safe, air conditioning, balconies, iron, hair dryer and high speed wireless internet. Refrigerators are available upon request. There are no televisions in the rooms – there is an additional fee if you would like one.

On Tues. evening the Retiree Chapter will host a wine and cheese social before dinner.

Fees: Double Rate, Per Person - \$259. per night plus tax; Single Rate - \$359. per night plus tax; Day Attendees - \$135 includes tax. There is an Administrative fee charged by Mohonk that the RC will underwrite. Additionally, there is no need to provide gratuities of any kind.

Transportation: If you take the bus to New Paltz, Mohonk will send a shuttle at no cost. If you take the train to Poughkeepsie, you will need to take a cab/car service to the hotel at your expense. If you drive, Mohonk provides free valet parking.

CSA RC Mohonk Mountain House

June 18 – 20, 2018

Name _____

Address _____

Tel/Cell: _____ Email: _____

Roomate Name: _____

Double: \$259 pp + tax Single: \$359 pp + tax Day Attendee: \$135

Two nights One night Full day

Payment: Deposit of one night/full day required for reservation. Full payment must be made by March 18. Cancellations by March 18 receive an 80% refund. Checks should be made out to CSA Retiree Chapter, or use a credit card below. Mail to: CSA RC, 40 Rector Street, 12th Fl, New York, NY. 10006, or call the RC at (212) 823-2020 with your credit card information.

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Have You Heard About IRMAA and Medicare Part B Reimbursement?

BY FELICE HANNAH

We have a greater appreciation for our benefits when we understand its history.

IRMAA, Part B: Brief Overview

Mary Pinkett was a labor advocate and the first African-American woman elected to the New York City Council in 1974. She remained in this position until term limit laws forced her from office in 2001. She died in 2003. Her husband, William (Bill) Pinkett, a retired New York city administrator, was her stalwart supporter. He is on the executive board here at CSA, and is a Board Member of Medgar Evers College and member of many community and political organizations.

Mrs. Pinkett was an advocate for the working class, and a skilled debater. She used her skills to get support of the full city council to approve her bill to reimburse city retirees' Medicare Part B premiums.

In 1999, Mary Pinkett introduced a bill called "A Local Law to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to health insurance for city employees, city retirees and their dependents." Following hearings and amendments, the bill was approved. Then mayor Rudy Guliani vetoed the bill. The city council, with Peter Vallone as speaker, overrode the mayor's veto and passed the bill on June 28, 2001. The bill to reimburse 100% of Medicare Part B Premiums for eligible retired city employees and their eligible dependents enrolled in Medicare and the city health benefits plan became law.

Thus began, with the exclusion of enrollment penalties and higher income related Part D, reimbursement of 100% of the Medicare Part B premium for city retirees receiving a pension check and enrolled in the city health benefits plan.

Fast forward to 2003 – the Medicare Modernization Act. In 2003, the Part B premium was being subsidized by the federal government. Part B beneficiaries paid approximately 25% of the cost, and the balance was subsidized by the federal government. Section 1839 (i) (as amended by section 811 of the MMA) of the Social Security Act, "provides that individuals with modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) in excess of a threshold amount shall receive a lower premium

subsidy." This raised the Medicare Part B premium for some individuals. People with income above a certain threshold would, in addition to paying the standard premium and any enrollment penalties, pay an income-related monthly adjusted amount (IRMAA) effective 2007.

Apply for Medicare Part B and IRMAA Reimbursement

In order to receive Medicare Part B reimbursements you must provide the Office of Labor Relations a copy of the Medicare cards for you and/or any eligible dependent.

Upon receipt, the Office of Labor Relations will automatically deposit your standard reimbursement to the bank account where your pension check is either electronic fund transferred (EFT) or direct deposited.

If your MAGI is above a certain income threshold, you may be entitled to reimbursement of Income-Related Monthly Adjusted Amount (IRMAA). You must apply for IRMAA reimbursement each year.

Go to the Office of Labor Relations website to download the Medicare Part B IRMAA reimbursement application form and follow the directions. The reimbursement application form for 2017 Medicare Part B IRMAA will be available online at the end of March.

If you are not collecting Social Security benefits and are eligible for Medicare Part B IRMAA Reimbursement, you will need to submit to the Office of Labor Relations the Part B IRMAA application form, a copy of your Social Security Administration 'statement letter,' and proof of paid monthly Part B premiums. Such proof may be copies of your cancelled checks, and SSA quarterly payment receipts.

To contact The Office of Labor Relations you can visit on weekdays (except legal holidays) between 9am and 2pm. No appointment is necessary.

Also, you may write to the Office of Labor Relations at: Office of Labor Relations, Health Benefits Program, Attn: Medicare Part B Reimbursement Unit, 40 Rector Street, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10006.

For additional information, visit the website of The Office of Labor Relations: nyc.gov/hbp.

RC Regional Units

LONG ISLAND

The unit's outreach program has scheduled two important programs for spring. On April 13, the program "Cybercrime and Senior Scams" will feature a district attorney whose mission is to help individuals avoid becoming victims. On May 4, the program will be a presentation on the Teacher Retirement System, including the subject of retiree death benefits and RMDs. Outreach programs are held at the Plainview-Old Bethpage Library, 999 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY from 9:30 am - 12 noon. To register for the April 13 program, send a check for \$5, payable to CSA Scholarship Program, to Victor Ravens, CSA/LI Unit, P.O. Box 511, Plainview, NY 11803. Members of the legislative committee of the unit will meet legislators on March 19/20 to discuss ways to increase voter registration among other issues. The committee is also working to encourage the formation of legislative committees in other retiree units in order to coordinate issues important to members. On Tuesday, June 19, the Long Island Unit's annual luncheon at the Woodbury Country Club, from 12 noon - 4 pm and enjoy good food, music and conversation with friends and colleagues.

— RENEE YARMOFF

BROOKLYN

Unit members and guests enjoyed the holiday luncheon at Chadwicks where President Mark Cannizzaro greeted and thanked retirees for their contributions. Members and guests are invited to attend the Metropolitan Opera: Live in HD performance of La Boheme on Saturday, Feb. 24 at BAM. The screening and discussion begins at 11:30 am. We have limited tickets at the cost of \$36. We will be returning to Barclay's Center on the evening of Wed., March 21 for dinner and game seats as the Brooklyn Nets take on the Charlotte Hornets. Members: \$85; Guests \$95. Seats are limited so please send in your payment as soon as possible. Our next unit meeting is Tuesday, March 20 at 10 am at St Francis College. Come prepared with questions for our TRS specialist.

— ROSALYN ALLMAN-MANNING

SOUTHEAST FLORIDA

We wish all of our members a Happy and Healthy New Year. We want to thank President Mark Cannizzaro, Gayle Lockett and Dr. Douglas Hathaway for their presentation at the Health and Welfare Meeting held on Jan. 22. This year, the format of the meeting was changed to include a Continental Breakfast, a general session, lunch and a benefits presentation. Our next event is our luncheon held at Benvenuto's Catering, 1730 N. Federal Highway, Boynton Beach, Florida on Feb. 12. The morning session begins at 10 am. with a Continental Breakfast followed by a cocktail hour and lunch with live entertainment. We hope to see you there. If you have not registered for the luncheon, you can e-mail Bernice Wolodarsky at berniceala@aol.com or call her at 561-736-2458.

— LOIS TURETZKY

PACIFIC COAST

Our unit will hold its annual health and welfare update meeting on Tuesday, March 13 at Mimi's, at 22651 Lake Forest Drive, Lake Forest, CA, 92630. The lunch meeting will begin at 11 am. Cost: \$20. All CSA Retirees & guests are welcome to join us and receive the latest updates from Retiree Chapter Chair Gayle Lockett and CSA Welfare Fund Administrator Dr. Doug Hathaway. For further information and to RSVP, contact: Sandy Tuckman @ stbubbe@aol.com

— CAROL RAINEY

MANHATTAN

We will celebrate our tenth year anniversary as a regional unit at our annual luncheon at 12 noon on June 8 at the historic and stately National Arts Club. You'll be receiving more information about this event as well as information about our Spring General Membership Meeting. In the meantime, please know you can always reach me at (917) 692-2942 or shw29@verizon.net

— STANLEY WILSON

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY

There is a change of date for the Bagel Meeting which was to be held on May 2. The new date is May 3, 9:30 am at the Monroe Township Library. I arranged for a historian to come and speak to us from the Friends of Monmouth Battlefield. This promises to be a very interesting meeting. See you on May 3.

— LUCILLE VECCHIARELLI

Arts and Crafts Show

If you are a CSA RC Member interested in having your artwork displayed at the CSA RC Arts and Crafts Show at CSA, please contact Patricia Mack at pmack@csa-nyc.org or mail CSA Retiree Chapter, 40 Rector Street, 12th Fl., NY, NY 10006 or call the RC at (212) 823-2020, ext. 2080.

Please provide all the information below.

NAME _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

HOME OR CELL NUMBER _____

MEDIA OF YOUR ART WORK _____

NUMBER AND SIZE OF PIECES _____

AARP Driver Safety Program

For In-Service and Retiree Members | Wed., April 4
Defensive Driving Classes – 6 Hours of Instruction

Name _____

Address _____

Home or Cell Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mail coupon by March 28 to: CSA Retiree Chapter, 40 Rector Street, 12th Fl., NY, NY 10006. For information: (212) 823-2020, ext.2079 or e-mail Lucie@csa-nyc.org. Include a copy of your valid driver's license and if applicable your current AARP membership card. * Checks payable to AARP: \$20.00 for AARP members and \$25.00 for non-members.



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Borough Briefs / In The Schools

Compiled by
Corey Bachman

Bronx (DIST. 7-12)

New Gymnasium

PS 160 held the grand opening of their new gymnasium on Jan. 10. The funds needed to renovate their existing gym were made possible through a grant from NYC Council Member Andy King. The ribbon-cutting ceremony coincided with the second open house for the newly-appointed magnet STEAM school status. "The completion of the new gymnasium offered the opportunity to showcase the brand-new gym facility and highlight the great STEAM curriculum taking place at The Walt Disney Magnet STEAM School. It also provided the opportunity to showcase partnerships with local community-based organizations," said Lori Baker, principal.

Queens (DIST. 24 - 30)

Community Health

The High School for Arts and Business recently held an event for parents and the community to get free breast cancer mammograms. The school partnered with the American Italian Cancer Foundation to bring little to no cost breast cancer screening services to the community and had a mobile unit parked right outside the school on Dec. 21. "This is another service that we provide to the surrounding community throughout the year to help keep our parents engaged and our students on track," said Ana Zambrano-Burakov, principal.

Staten Island (D-31)

How Empires Die

Staten Island Technical High School AP World History teachers replaced a traditional final exam with an interactive history-themed experiential lab, in which students participated in an "Empire Autopsy" project. Teachers tasked students with constructing an "empire cadaver" poster for class

Brooklyn (DIST. 13-23,32)

Young Architect Earns Award

At the Williamsburg Hotel on Jan. 25, **Williamsburg High School of Architecture and Design** students enjoyed the fruits of their labor. The event showcased student designs for the lobby of the Bushwick Hotel. On hand to celebrate the achievements of these aspiring architects, members of the architectural firm, Gensler, viewed each group's design concepts and chatted with students about the process. Additionally, the top three groups received their awards for the competition held this past June. Assemblyman Joseph Lentol awarded the winner, Kaniyah Parris (pictured, center), a plaque and had some very complimentary words for



WHSAD students and the work they are doing at the school.

"Projects like this, which can only be provided through private sector part-

nerships, provide important real world experience that is impossible to simulate in the safe space of a classroom," said Gill Cornell, principal.

scrutiny, examination and discussion. Aspects of civilization corresponded with different body parts, and students were encouraged to relate the causes of their assigned civilizations' downfall to a breakdown of these body parts. "I am not surprised to see the entire freshman history team collaborate and teach in such a dynamic fashion. The students were clearly thrilled, engaged and had complete ownership of their learning," said Mark Erlenwein, principal.

Fifth-graders at **PS 78** have seen improvements in their reading skills thanks to a therapy dog named Jasmine. Jasmine visits class once a week with her owner, Norma Callahan. The two are volunteers with *Luv on a Leash* which helps place registered therapy dogs throughout Staten Island. The organization reached out to Principal Louis Bruschi, who asked the classrooms to come up with a list of reasons why they should be able to work with the dog. For 15 minutes a visit, students read a book of their choice with Callahan and Jasmine by their side. Jasmine helps calm and comfort students, as they increase their reading levels in a judgment-free environment.

Send Borough Briefs to Corey Bachman at corey@csa-nyc.org.



■ The HS for Arts and Business partnered with the American Italian Cancer Foundation to bring free or low cost breast cancer screening services to the school's community. Ana Zambrano-Burakov is principal.



■ Mark Erlenwein, Principal at Staten Island Technical HS noted that students were, "thrilled," by participating in an experiential lab, in which AP World History teachers at the school enlightened students regarding the decline of civilizations in an innovative, collaborative hands-on way.