

## UTS LATEST NEWS

The following are highlights from the UTS monthly meetings. Full minutes are posted at [seafordteachers.com](http://seafordteachers.com):

### January Highlights

- There was a discussion at the last Central TAC meeting about the Bowling Coach being the only adult at bowling matches. The district has agreed that there should be a specialist accompanying the bowling team. In the future, this position will be posted with the other fall specialist positions.
- Margaret distributed and discussed materials concerning the Janus v. AFSCME case and the constitutional convention.
- The membership was asked to wear red on Thursday January 19th to support public education.
- Meghan discussed establishing this year's constitutional committee.
- The high school faculty is still concerned that a UTS member is not supervising the library after school. This will be brought up at the next Central TAC meeting.
- The Chairperson's grievance has been settled; the Chairpeople received their checks on January 3rd. Next week, Central TAC will work on how to establish the duties and responsibilities of the Chairpeople.
- The aides and the security guards are member of the same bargaining unit. They are currently without a contract. Margaret would like the have the UTS membership show our support. Laura made a motion to show solidarity with the CSEA by wearing buttons; all were in favor. Margaret will reach out to the CSEA to make sure they are okay with us wearing buttons.

### February Highlights

- On February 8th, Jen Wemssen was elected as the new Treasurer/Membership Chair.
- Margaret emailed an informational video about the effects of a Constitutional Convention to the executive

board. The executive board feels that it would be beneficial to share with the entire membership.

- Margaret has emailed the LITBF scholarship application to the membership.
- There was a discussion about the benefits that members receive by being members of the UTS versus what will be lost if there was no longer a UTS.
- The state has now regulated that the coach needs to keep track of the pitch count for both the home and away pitchers. Brian and John agree that there needs to be a paid specialist position. The specialist for all baseball games will keep track of the pitches and take care of the scoreboard for all baseball games.
- There was a discussion about allowing members to purchase more UTS apparel. Curtis will distribute order forms to each of the lead building reps.
- There was a concern that there may be an issue getting pull out time to mentor a new teacher.

### March Highlights

- \$800 spent on public relations as voted on last meeting
- Dianne Dunn is the new Recording secretary.
- Annemarie Motisi is the new Manor representative.
- Dan made a motion to accept the nomination of James Scortos for the Appointment of HS Trust Fund Rep. All in favor
- UTS Scholarships: Start discussing the way students are chosen.
- Retirement Delegate: Election needed to elect Retirement delegate and alternate for Seaford UFSD by the end of June. Administrators are allowed to run as well, it is a district position with a stipend, not a UTS position.

- Retirement Advice-Go to NYSTRS website and call to speak with NYSTRS representative. Need ID # which can be found by logging on/registering at <https://www.nystrs.org>.



- April 10th Snow make up day: We cannot advise people as to how to deal with planning. Read contract to member regarding taking sick and personal days. Scott Bursin will be speaking with Brian Conboy to discuss possible change.

- Financial Advisors in District: Margaret and Dan met with NEA advisor, would like to come in and do a retirement readiness assessment with members. By appointment. Free of charge. No obligation to purchase services.
- Technology dept not keeping members updated. How to make outside calls?, email issues, Fred's icon not appropriate.
- NYSTRS contacted about Chairperson settlement about FAS for pension. Letters rec'd –one stated it was calculated in, next letter stated it was not after settlement papers were reviewed. Margaret in contact to have final decision made and why letters were sent out.
- Postcards: Send out postcards to vote for budget.
- Senator Brooks, Cominsky, in Albany: \$400 mil more to charter schools coming from public schools.
- UTS app: database for issues/questions for members only Groupahead.com, actionnetwork.com, email all, and it tracks
- Constitutional Convention VOTE NO buttons. Vote in Nov.
- Letter sent out by Sup't angered parents.
- UTS can send out letter via social media to tell parents to choose what to do with opting out.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we welcome the coming of spring and look toward the end of another challenging, yet successful school year, it is a good time to reflect on what is happening at both the district level and the wider, state and national levels.

Within the ranks of your UTS executive board, we have seen a number of changes in leadership. We welcome Jen Wemssen as our new Treasurer/Membership Chair and Dianne Dunn as our Recording Secretary. All three of our Manor building reps are new to the executive board this year and we thank John Berry, Lisa Gagliano and Anne Marie Motisi for stepping forward to accept this important position. We would be remiss if we didn't give a big shout out to Meghan O'Connell, UTS Parliamentarian, for running more elections over the course of seven months than have probably ever been run during that time frame in the history of the UTS!

UTS members had another opportunity to mingle with people from different schools at a bowling event on Feb. 3rd. Members from all four buildings enjoyed an evening of bowling, snacks and good company. We are hoping to have at least one more UTS social event this school year and we look forward to seeing many of you there. Only by getting to know each other as people first, and not just as teachers or members of the same union, can we truly become invested in supporting each other and the best interests of our local.

With the advent of spring come the dreaded NY state states for grades 3-8. This year, as last year,

we expressed our support for parents who chose to opt their children out of these exams by posting a letter to our Facebook page expressing our support for a parent's right to refuse the state tests for their children.

This school year, your executive board has worked to educate our members on two issues that could greatly impact the UTS and all union workers. The possibility of a Constitutional Convention in Nov. 2017 along with the possibility of Right To Work legislation being passed could be catastrophic for our livelihood and well-being. Many members have been moved to further educate themselves and to engage in dialogue about these pressing matters. Education is our greatest weapon in fighting legislation that could have a negative effect on our profession. Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to further inform you about these topics.

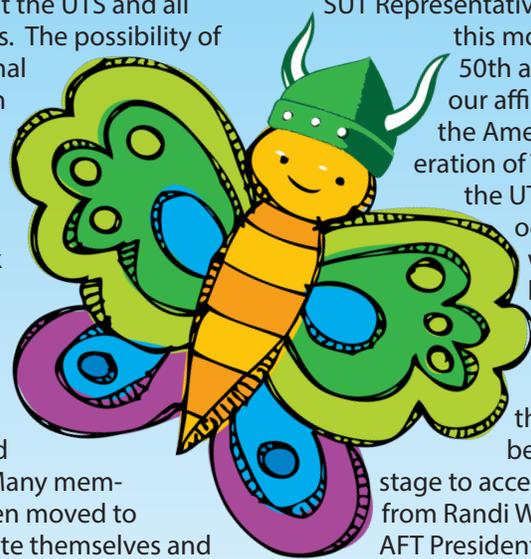
In the 'very good news' category, UTS members along with the Seaford community will have the opportunity to recognize and celebrate some of our own teachers. On Apr. 5th, the American Legion of Seaford will honor four of our members. One member from each building will receive the American Legion Outstanding Teacher award. Justin McCor-

mack (HS), Tom Hansen (MS), Ken Botti (Manor) and Michelle Wojcik (Harbor) have all demonstrated their commitment to the teaching profession through their hard work and dedication to the students of Seaford. Congratulations to all four well-deserving recipients!!

Another exciting recognition will be awarded to the UTS at the NY-SUT Representative Assembly this month. It is the 50th anniversary of our affiliation with the American Federation of Teachers and the UTS will be recognized, along with other locals, during the second general session of the RA. I will be invited on stage to accept a plaque from Randi Weingarten, AFT President, commemorating this milestone.

As another school year comes to a close, I would like to thank each and every one of you for whatever part you have played this year in keeping the wheels of our union turning. Whether it was going to a BOE meeting, attending one of the UTS social events or just simply engaging in discussion with other UTS members about the many issues that affect all of us as educators and union members, you have all played a part in making the UTS a better, stronger union.

In solidarity,  
*Margaret Glancy*



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following letter was posted to the UTS Facebook page.

April 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with concern for our students' well being that we address issues parents have raised with us regarding student testing. Over the past few years, parents of Seaford students have become increasingly aware of the controversy surrounding ELA and Mathematics tests for students in grades 3 through 8. Last year, out of a growing anxiety for the consequences of "high stakes" testing, many Seaford parents opted to "refuse" the grade 3-8 tests for their children. Issues have included: the stress on students, the appropriateness of the tests, the erosion of learning time and the lack of state transparency regarding test content. Since then, some parents have asked the teachers for guidance in this matter.

This year, we feel it is necessary to reiterate our stance from last year and to support the parents in our community who wish to refuse the tests for their children.

Meeting "individual needs" has been the cornerstone of the teachers' philosophy in educating the students of the Seaford schools. Daily, we direct our energies toward finding the key to each student's interests, and we tailor their schedules and lessons for this purpose. We think that you will agree that there is nothing "common" about Seaford's students or the way we educate them.

The United Teachers of Seaford, as well as its state affiliate NYSUT, fully supports the right of parents to choose what is best for their children. We support a parent's right to "refuse" the state standardized tests if the parent believes state testing is inappropriate for, and/or harmful to, his or her child. In fact, many of our members have chosen to "opt out" of the state exams on behalf of their own children.

While the New York State Education Department's overreliance on state tests creates unfortunate consequences for students, teachers and schools, please know that we value your children as more than a test score.

Sincerely,

Margaret M. Glancy, President  
United Teachers of Seaford

<http://www.nysape.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Longislandoptout/>



# TREASURERS REPORT

Each year, the UTS Budget Committee meets to discuss and develop the budget for the following fiscal year. This year, the meeting will be held on Tuesday May 9th.

## **Budget Summary Report 2016 – 2017** 10/1/16 through 3/23/17

Category	Budget	Actual	Difference
Dues	\$255,006.00	\$193,818.24	\$61,187.76
Interest Earned	\$26.00	\$9.09	\$16.91
Misc. Income	\$0.00	\$2,038.00	-\$2,038.00
Vote Cope	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$257,032.00</b>	<b>\$195,865.33</b>	<b>\$61,166.67</b>

Category	Budget	Actual	Difference
Accountant	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Affiliations	\$136,431.00	\$83,057.16	\$53,373.84
Bank Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communications	\$1,100.00	\$832.05	\$267.95
Conferences	\$6,000.00	\$1,686.94	\$4,313.06
Member Benefits	\$8,000.00	\$3,361.85	\$4,638.15
Misc. Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$571.29	\$428.71
Negot/Griev	\$2,500.00	\$141.80	\$2,358.20
Office Expenses	\$1,800.00	\$850.21	\$949.79
Political Action	\$4,000.00	\$342.24	\$3,657.76
Public Relations	\$11,000.00	\$3,067.98	\$7,932.02
Stipends	\$79,825.17	\$39,912.58	\$39,912.59
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$253,156.17</b>	<b>\$133,824.10</b>	<b>\$119,332.07</b>

### *Net Worth as of 3/23/17*

Account Balances:	
Checking	\$146,466.41
Savings	\$54,341.12

## EDUCATION NEWS

# Why we must say NO to a State Constitutional Convention

Imagine, if you will, a day when the state of New York has no obligation to educate its young people; a day when it is relieved of its pension obligations to retirees; a day when you have no rights to collective bargaining or even to join a union. Imagine

“A constitutional convention has ramifications for all New Yorkers, even those not residing in the state,” said NYSUT Vice President Paul Pecorale. “A convention will only continue the attacks we’ve seen in recent years on the children, working and retired

ing a full rewrite. If in 2017 voters approve holding the convention, delegates would be elected at the next general election, in November 2018. The convention would meet in Albany the following April for an unspecified duration, until it presents its recommendations, which would then be put to the voters for another referendum no sooner than six weeks later.

Why is this important to you as a NYSUT member? What’s at stake?

“Delegates to a possible convention can essentially blow up the way of life New Yorkers enjoy and the expectations and priorities each of us have,” said Pecorale. “Whether it’s public education, collective bargaining, our retirement security, environmental protections, spending caps in the budget, or any other issue one cares about, it’s all at risk.”

The constitution sets the most important policy goals for the people of New York state, and thus, has an impact on every other law currently in place and on future statutes yet to come. For example, following a 1967 convention, voters rejected the proposed changes that included repeal of the “Blaine Amendment,” which prohibits the use of state monies to assist religious schools. Had this repeal not been rejected by the voters, public education would look very different here in New York.

Pecorale said NYSUT members must work together to educate each other, friends, families and communities about why we cannot risk destroying the state’s charter document.

“We must understand the facts,” he said, “talk about serious repercussions from a possible constitutional convention, and vote to defeat the referendum on the ballot in 2017.”

- [NYSUT.org](http://NYSUT.org)



a day when the Adirondacks are no longer “Forever Wild.” Or a day when the governor of New York dictates the state’s annual budget with no requirement for input or approval from the Legislature.

A signpost is up ahead, but it’s not “The Twilight Zone.” It’s the potential disaster known as a constitutional convention.

On Election Day — Nov. 7, 2017 — voters will be asked to decide whether the state should redraft the state’s charter document — its constitution. This referendum will overshadow all other decisions citizens will be asked to make that November, and the outcome could have far-reaching effects for decades to come. Opening up the constitution to haphazard and wholesale changes could alter working conditions, our retirement security and our members’ ability to provide a sound and basic education.

people of this great state.”

Under the State Constitution (Article 19, §2), every 20 years the people are asked a seemingly simple ballot question: “Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend same?” It’s an option, but it’s not the only way to update or fix the basic outline of our state government.

The constitution can be amended in two ways. The first is through the passage of individual bills to amend specific language by two separately elected state Legislatures. If passed, such bills would then appear on the following November ballot as a referendum. Most recently this process was undertaken in 2014, and it has been used 200 times since the last major constitutional revision in 1894. It works.

The second process is a constitutional convention. This option allows for much wider modifications, includ-

# BUILDING NEWS

## Middle School

### 6th Grade

The sixth graders have been excited to use technology during Language Arts and Social Studies lessons. Using apps like Plickers, Kahoot, and Quizlet has helped them prepare for their tests. It's a great tool to build on their study skills, while being interactive and engaged in during learning.

### Culture Club

Culture Club at SMS - In celebration of Women's History Month, students brought in a picture of a woman who made an impact in society and talked with others about how their impact affected them. We are also going to watch a movie about the women's rights movement during Culture Club and discuss our reactions to the movie.

## Harbor School

### PARP

Harbor Teachers Dana Greci, Tara Flood, Kerry Hansen, Nanci Prefer, and Jen Brand, dressed as their favorite storybook characters to start the PARP program off right!



### Trade Fair

Fifth grade Harbor teachers host annual Trade Fair to kickoff their Economics Unit.

## Manor School

### Author Visit

Samantha Simon successfully implemented her first author visit with Phil Binder. He was an inspiration- full of animation, energy and enthusiasm for his craft- yet a humble man who promoted other authors before he even mentioned his books. You can see many Manor students with their noses in his books.



## BUILDING NEWS

### Manor School



#### Down Syndrome Awareness

Melissa Infranca of the Manor School brought attention to Down Syndrome by raising awareness. The Manor Family wore blue and yellow decorated ribbons for the hallways.

#### Pet Food Drive

Seaford Manor's Connections Club is participating in Assemblyman Dave McDonough's Annual "Baxter's Pet Pantry" Pet Food Drive. We will be collecting pet food until Friday, April 7, 2017. [Click for more information.](#)

#### St. Jude's Marathon

In January, the Manor school ran their annual St. Jude's Mathathon. Each year, students raise money for the children of St. Jude's by completing a "Fun Book" and collecting funds from family and friends. The event ran for the entire month of January, we always appreciate the kindness and generosity of the Seaford community when it comes to this event. Each year we raise the goal, and the families of Seaford have always come through. This year our goal was to raise \$2500, and we are proud to announce that we raised over \$3400. We are looking forward to everyone's participation in next years event.

#### Manor PE Dept. News

The Manor PE dept. held their annual Hoops for Heart Fundraiser during the month of February. They raised \$4,357.00 benefitting the American Heart Association.

The Annual Physical Education Demonstration was held on March 15th. It was put on by the Manor 5th grade class and was a complete success.

#### Summer Music

Summer Music is planning on a second year of instruction as we prepare out incoming 4th graders for their first year in band at both elementary schools. Pam Brinkman, Harbor will also be hosting an incoming 3rd grade program at the event!

#### Quidditch For A Cause

Quidditch for a Cause will be having its second annual event. Once again raising money for Karen's Hope. We look forward to having more students involved as we double the amount of teams playing!



Seaford teachers attended Teacher's College



#### Book "Tasting"

Miss Egan's Class did "Book Tasting" to re-spark their interest in reading. Ms. Simon and I collaborated to put together a collection of books from 5 genres. Students were "served" 5 courses which included, mystery, adventure, realistic fiction, historical fiction, and fantasy. The purpose was to spend time browsing with a focus on finding new book titles to add to their Book List. The students were exposed to more than 50 books overall and left the tasting with 5 new titles recorded on a special bookmark. All of the titles were available for checkout in Ms. Simon's Library. This was also a great way to kickoff our #BookStackChallenge where students write a summary of the books they read, decorate a paper spine to add to our Book Shelf Bulletin board, and have their names entered in a raffle to receive a book of their choice at the end of the month. The tasting and challenge have already motivated even the most reluctant readers to find books that interest them and read!

# UTS UNITY

A successful night full of laughs and some gutter balls!! UTS Bowling Event at Wantagh Lanes!!!



## UTS TRACT Center

Wantagh-Seaford Teacher Resource and Computer Training Center (TRACT)

TRACT successfully ran 16 inservice courses with an average of 17 participants per course.

A new cohort of students began their second year of study in Stony Brook University's Educational Leadership Program.

The TRACT website provides the most current information about upcoming professional development opportunities.



## UTS Trust Fund

For information regarding Dental Benefits, Optical and Major Medical reimbursements and Legal Benefits please visit the UTS website ([www.seafordteachers.com](http://www.seafordteachers.com)).

**Danielle Alvari:**

*Chairperson and Middle School Representative*

**MaryLou Christensen:**

*Treasurer and Middle School Representative*

**Susan Bennett:**

*Secretary and High School Representative*

**Ann Marie Motisi:**

*Manor School Representative*

**Jessica Koudelka:**

*Harbor School Representative*

## ARTS (Association of Retired Teachers)

The Association of Retired Teachers of Seaford, known as A.R.T.S., meets twice a year for luncheon meetings. It provides an opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new friends. We have enjoyed each other's company at L.I. Islander games, theater outings and dinner cruises. Twice a year we publish a newsletter for our retired members.

Each year the A.R.T.S. grants a scholarship of \$500 to a graduating Seaford senior who will enter the field of teaching. We also grant a \$50 recognition award to two Seaford Middle School students and we make a yearly donation to the Seaford Patriot Dinner as well as a contribution to the Seaford Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased members.

A.R.T.S. has provided a means to stay in touch with those who were a part of our lives in Seaford for so many years. We look forward to increasing our ranks as more UTS members complete their service to the Seaford School District and enter the wonderful world of retirement.

### Want to submit UTS member news?

Write a paragraph description and email to [ctripoli@mail.seaford.k12.ny.us](mailto:ctripoli@mail.seaford.k12.ny.us).

Please only include photos of UTS members.

