

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---

Dear UTS Sisters and Brothers,  
10 weeks and counting-it's still difficult to believe that schools have been closed for that long. It's even more difficult to believe that we will end our school year at home, conducting remote learning, interacting with our students through a screen rather than interacting in person, in our classrooms.

During this time of our new reality we have gone through, what the district refers to as, three phases of distance learning, I often wonder what our students are learning from this experience, besides the academic work that you are providing for them. Will they learn that they can walk away from a lesson to get a snack? That they can mute themselves and 'hide' themselves when they tire of listening to their teacher? Will they truly understand the massive effort that their teachers have put forth to try to make this insane situation work in order to continue their education?

In my many conversations with our members, I know that what we're all learning is that the UTS, as always, will

rise to the occasion and work together to accomplish what we need to as educators. We have all been pushed out of our comfort zone and have put in countless hours learning new technology, Zooming more than we ever thought possible, figuring out reasonable expectations for our students and their families during these trying times and trying to maintain our sanity as we juggle 'working from home' with 'being at home.'

One bright side of all that we're dealing with right now is that the appreciation for what we do and the outpouring of support for all teachers has been magnified tenfold by our current circumstances. Many on social media, have expressed their heartfelt thanks for teachers everywhere. Nicholas Ferroni, a teacher in New Jersey, summed it up on Twitter:

"This pandemic has already revealed that:

- schools are so much more than just schools.

- many people now realize how tough it is to be a teacher and that teachers are grossly underpaid.

- teachers are irreplaceable and essential to learning and education."

In a post on Facebook, early on in the crisis, Ken Buck, a school board member in Lancaster, South Carolina, recognized the tremendous job that teachers did in transitioning to remote learning. He wrote, "We gave educators almost no notice. We asked them to completely redesign what school looks like and in about 24 hours local administrators and teachers 'Apollo 13'ed' the problem and fixed it. Kids learning, children being fed, needs being met in the midst of a global crisis.

No state agency did this, no so-called national experts on curriculum. The local educators fixed it in hours. HOURS."

Although we are still unsure of what the upcoming school year will look like, I am sure that whatever September brings, our members will continue to rise to the challenge by putting in the work, supporting their students and supporting each other, every step of the way.

Be well and stay strong,

**Margaret**



# UTS LATEST NEWS

Since the UTS executive board hasn't been able to meet in person, we have been carrying on through Zoom!

We have recently approved the minutes from the last few Zoom meetings and posted them to the UTS website.

The latest UTS issues have and will continue to be shared through the regular text communication between building reps, union leaders, and school administration as well as the building level and general UTS Zoom meetings. Please reach out to building reps if you have any questions.

[Click HERE for a list of your building reps.](#)

## UTS Executive Board Zoom Meeting



# TREASURERS REPORT

.....

## ***Budget Summary Report*** 10/1/2019 through 5/8/2020

Category	Budget	Actual	Difference
Dues	\$270,000.00	\$242,996.92	\$27,003.08
Interest Earned	\$26.00	\$12.87	\$13.13
Misc. Income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Vote Cope	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$272,026.00</b>	<b>\$243,009.79</b>	<b>\$29,016.21</b>

Category	Budget	Actual	Difference
Accountant	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Affiliations	\$137,916.00	\$116,001.90	\$21,914.10
Bank Charges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Communications	\$1,100.00	\$225.00	\$875.00
Conferences	\$4,000.00	\$1,620.62	\$2,379.38
Lawyer	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Member Benefits	\$10,000.00	\$2,194.75	\$7,805.25
Misc. Expenses	\$1,000.00	\$452.25	\$547.75
Negot/Griev	\$2,500.00	\$325.00	\$2,175.00
Office Expenses	\$2,300.00	\$530.83	\$1,769.17
Political Action	\$4,500.00	\$382.16	\$4,117.84
Public Relations	\$11,500.00	\$7,250.92	\$4,249.08
Stipends	\$81,658.00	\$40,829.00	\$40,829.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$267,974.00</b>	<b>\$169,812.43</b>	<b>\$98,161.57</b>

Account Balances:	
Checking	\$195,003.16
Savings	\$54,424.85

## NYSUT NEWS

# NYSUT provides 50,000 masks for Long Island and NYC health care workers

Source: NYSUT Communications

Author: Kara Smith

Three groups of downstate health care professionals got a welcome delivery in April. Thanks to generous member donations to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund, the statewide union purchased and delivered 50,000 surgical masks for members at the Long Island Community Hospital; the Saint Catherine of Siena Medical Center in Suffolk County; and to the Visiting Nurse Service of New York in Manhattan.

“Our health care members are working in unimaginable conditions right now,” said NYSUT President Andy Pallotta. “We wanted to find a tangible way to let them know their union is there for them.”

“Since New York City and Long Island are hot spots, we felt we could do the most immediate good in those areas,” said Philippe Abraham, NYSUT secretary-treasurer, whose office heads the Disaster Relief Fund. “But this is just a start — we are currently working to provide even more assistance for our members on the front line.”

After working with local NYSUT representatives to determine need, Veronica Foley, NYSUT’s assistant in health & safety and health care, got to work finding a reliable vendor for the masks. Although NYSUT sought to purchase National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health certified N95 respirator masks — which provide the best protection and are the most needed — finding a source the union could trust was difficult, given the scarcity of supplies.

As NYSUT members across the state risk their lives serving on the front lines in hospitals and other health care facilities statewide during the COVID-19 pandemic, NYSUT urges

members to donate to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund. All proceeds will go directly toward purchasing and providing PPE, food and other supplies for health care workers.

“Since lots of providers have come out of the woodwork due to shortages, it’s creating a grey market for

es, the hospital’s CEO and the chief nursing officer, when we arrived to drop off the supplies at Long Island Community Hospital,” said Michael Krauthamer, an LRS with the Suffolk Regional office who works with the two hospital locals. “They wanted to come and express their gratitude.”



*Caption: Member donations to NYSUT’S Disaster Relief Fund helped to purchase and provide PPE for this special delivery to members of the Saint Catherine’s Federation of Health Professionals. Photo provided.*

personal protective equipment,” said Foley. “While we wanted to get masks into the hands of our members as quickly as possible, we also wanted to make sure that whatever we provided were quality supplies.”

The union settled on surgical ear-loop masks with three layers of non-woven polypropylene fabric, which “have a number of uses and should help lower the spread of the virus for anyone working in the hospital,” explained Foley. She noted that if true NIOSH-certified N95 masks had been available, the union would have purchased those.

Both members and hospital administrators welcomed the PPE. “We were greeted by folks from human resourc-

Members at the Saint Catherine of Siena Medical Center are represented by the Saint Catherines Federation of Health Professionals; VNS members by the United Federation of Teachers. NYSUT members at the Long Island Community Hospital are represented by Brookhaven Health Professionals.

As NYSUT members across the state risk their lives serving on the front lines in hospitals and other health care facilities statewide during the COVID-19 pandemic, NYSUT urges members to donate to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund. All proceeds will go directly toward purchasing and providing PPE, food and other supplies for health care workers.

## NYSUT NEWS

.....

# NYSUT Alert, May 22, 2020-NYSUT Member Benefits Legal Plan Enhancements During Pandemic

**D**uring this unprecedented crisis, the law firm of Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- the provider of our endorsed Legal Service Plan -- would like to offer assistance to NYSUT members for their sacrifices and contributions. If a NYSUT member who is a current participant in the Legal Service Plan passes away due to COVID-19, the law firm is extending a number of services at no cost to the member's family.

Feldman, Kramer & Monaco will provide guidance and assistance regarding the participating NYSUT member's estate (only in the instance of an uncontested estate), including answering questions related

to marshaling assets, obtaining a death certificate, locating family members, reviewing beneficiary forms, filing the necessary documentation with the applicable probate court, accessing a safety deposit box, vehicle title issues, and redirecting mail. In addition, the law firm can offer direction to the deceased NYSUT member's family regarding the next steps to take, such as advising a family member in regard to transferring assets, contacting financial institutions as well as free estate administration (probate) when needed. Most importantly, the law firm will provide a compassionate sounding board for the family.

Feldman, Kramer & Monaco is offering this no cost legal service as a way to honor its continued relationship with current participants in our endorsed Legal Service Plan. If you have any questions, please contact Christine Cavanagh (Feldman, Kramer and Monaco) at 631-231-1450, ext. 264.

---

**FELDMAN | KRAMER | MONACO**

**ATTORNEYS**

**631-231-1450, ext. 264.**

## COVID 19: .....

# How You Can Help:

> *Click link for more information:*

### [NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund:](#)

*Proceeds will go directly toward purchasing and providing Personal Protective Equipment, food and other supplies for all of our dedicated health care workers.*

### [United Way: United Together - A Response Fund:](#)

*United Way of Long Island has established UNITED TOGETHER: A Response Fund For COVID-19 to help alleviate disruptions to family life. We are collaborating with the Long Island Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (LIVOAD) and our network of nonprofit organizations in the region to assist families and individuals as they deal with this health and economic crisis.*

### [Long Island Cares: The Harry Chapin Food Bank:](#)

*Your donation will be used to help support Long Island residents with critical food and resources during this COVID-19 crisis.*

### [John Theissen Children's Foundation:](#)



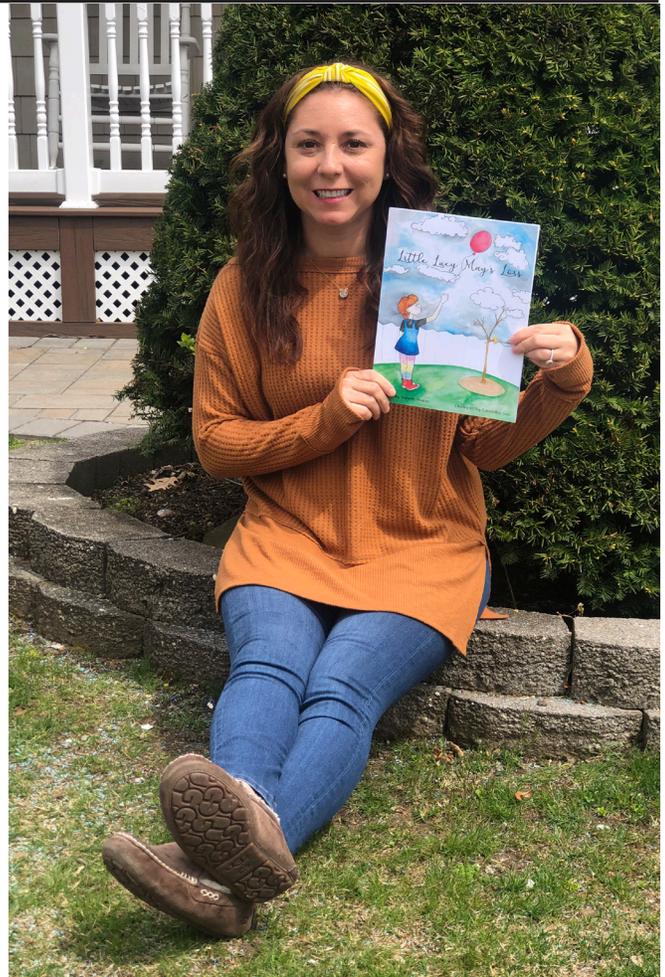
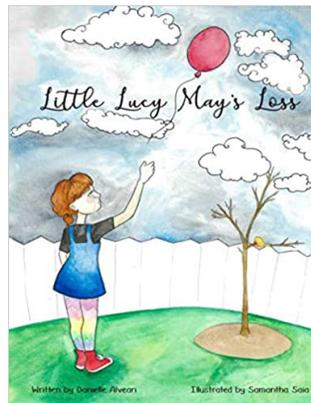
## GOOD NEWS: .....

### Little Lucy May's Loss

Danielle Alveari, a sixth grade teacher in the Middle School recently had her first children's book published and it is now currently available on Amazon!

[For the Amazon link, click HERE:](#)

Congratulations  
Danielle!



### Driveway Art

High School science teacher Rosalie Franz's children inspired a project for one of her daughters third grade classes. As a way to keep her children thinking creatively and being productive, they began designing chalk designs in their driveway.

The teacher ran with the idea and offered a challenge to the other students to come up with their own designs. The project was featured in the local paper.





# Thank You

During these unprecedented times and in the face of incredible adversity, each of you continue to sacrifice and dedicate yourselves to our children, our families and our communities.

We thank all of the educators, school-related professionals, nurses and other health care workers who continue to demonstrate their unwavering compassion, dedication and commitment to our communities on a daily basis.

[memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org) | 800-626-8101

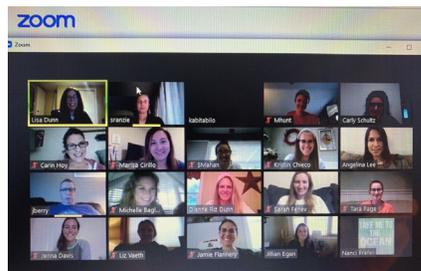


For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

May/June '20

# UTS TRACT Center

[TRACT Registration Link](#) - [TRACT Catalog Link](#)



## Office 365 Course

The Teacher Center is currently hosting a course, Office 365, taught by Lisa Dunn, to help educators with online learning.

## Good News:

New York State Teacher Centers are happy to announce that they are funded for the 2020 – 2021 school year.

Please contact [Stacey Ranzie](#) if you are interested in teaching a course or if you have an idea or need for a class and/or program.

# 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)).

## Trust Fund News:

- Please only submit an EOB or a yearly pharmacy print out with YOUR FULL NAME including a cover sheet, separate receipts will be submitted to be “reviewed” and take much longer
- You can email claims to [Seaford@dhcook.com](mailto:Seaford@dhcook.com)
- Lastly, we would like to welcome our new Trust Fund Chair, Chelsea Bianco. She will be taking over fully on July 1st, but is already working with the members of the Trust Fund to transition smoothly.
- All 2019 retirees should contact Chelsea Bianco if they’d like to continue Trust Fund benefits under the current COBRA rate.

**Danielle Alveari:**  
*Chairperson and Middle School Representative*

**MaryLou Christensen:**  
*Treasurer and Middle School Representative*

**James Scourtos:**  
*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@seaford.k12.ny.us](mailto:ctripoli@seaford.k12.ny.us).

Please only include photos of UTS members.