

I noticed that a lot of the news that I had for this newsletter were mostly anecdotes, so I thought I'd go with a tabloid Page 6-like theme. But then I realized I'd need pictures of people being all glamorous and fashionable, took one look around and realized that idea was pretty much hosed. Please try to imagine your co-workers dressed up and smiling at some sort of gala, groundbreaking, or massive donation to a charity fund with one of those gigantic cardboard checks in order to complete the scene.

RUMOR HAS IT that it's election season with elections for two-year terms coming up on June 1<sup>st</sup>. If everyone runs unopposed, there will be no need for a formal vote, but we really prefer to have contested elections. As of now, we don't have a nominee for JETA secretary or JEDIS building rep.

The form for nominations also include a spot to sign up for the various committees we have: Political Action, Social, Insurance, Health & Safety, APPR, and Audit. Thus far, no one from Elbridge, JEDIS, or the High School has volunteered for any committee, but the RUMOR HAS IT that the Middle School is showing up IN FORCE. Rumor has it that no one has volunteered for the APPR committee either. These committees can be a great way for new, untenured faculty to get involved and try us out.

Why do we care about this? It's not healthy for one or two people to do everything. We prefer to have people who can specialize and focus. Our strength comes from our numbers and combined efforts. We sort of need a big Uncle Sam logo here—We want you! Here's the link to the form. You'll love it. It's a way of life.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4pEMZFx\\_1kBZxyT4DJ\\_WFhtmNrOefWKWE02TRxE4\\_yr9xg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4pEMZFx_1kBZxyT4DJ_WFhtmNrOefWKWE02TRxE4_yr9xg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

RUMOR HAS IT that our annual membership meeting will be coming up on June 11, the second Tuesday of the month. More details will follow on that as we arrange them. Highlights will be approving the budget and taking a vote on the new bylaws. We realize that by saying highlights, we're kind of making sure that no one shows up. The actual highlight is seeing everyone after a long time apart.

RUMOR HAS IT that there's a new version of the bylaws and constitution being proposed. Earlier this year, Treasurer Emma Hood and Dave Siple attended a NYSUT seminar on fiduciary responsibilities, which caused Emma to ask that some details be added to the constitution. This caused Dave to see that the last revision to the bylaws was so old that it would

be able to qualify for a driver's license. Some revisions were done to reflect changes in our practices since the last revision. I've attached two copies of them, one with deletions and additions marked, and one with just the new version.

**RUMOR HAS IT** that no one has actually read them entirely. I know better than to ask anyone to do that at this busy time of the year, but I would appreciate it if someone looked over my shoulder. I haven't done anything sneaky or nefarious, but knowing how shady I am, I wouldn't take my word and that and you shouldn't either.

**RUMOR HAS IT** that one of our members is getting closer to having his student loans eliminated after ten years of repayments. This anonymous source who is much more real than my girlfriend who goes to a different school promised this reporter that he would write about his experiences when he's through it all. It does sound like the changes to the Department of Education's approach after the American Federation of Teachers sued them might be a move in a positive direction.

**RUMOR HAS IT** that if you have a child that is moving off your insurance due to turning older than 26 years of age, that there is a second plan available to them that can go to age 29. My source for this may or may not have been a former JETA insurance chair who hates being mentioned by name in these columns, who said "call Amy Lewis if this situation applies because it can help." As I don't have a 26-29 year old, I don't know anything more about it than that, except that this person was pretty mad when I didn't include this in the last newsletter, so I hope that's better Kiki. Expect a clarification in the June newsletter when I will include the other half dozen things I was supposed to say about this but forgot. Meanwhile, just call Amy Lewis if this situation applies to you because it can help, according to rumor.

**RUMOR HAS IT** that the changes we made to tuition reimbursement went into effect this year which allowed five teachers to have a class fully reimbursed and four additional classes partially reimbursed. We also worked out a system with the district to get the paperwork in to the district and reimbursements and salary increases into our members' hands faster. This is the third year in a row that we've had people take advantage of the full amount of the \$7500 fund for continuing education.

**RUMOR HAS IT** that Michelle Alcock is stepping down from her position of Teacher Center Liaison after five years. Thank you, Michelle! Even better, Abby Morgans volunteered to take over the job for the future. The Teacher Center is a wonderful resource for teachers, and we have been and will be in good hands with Michelle and Abby.

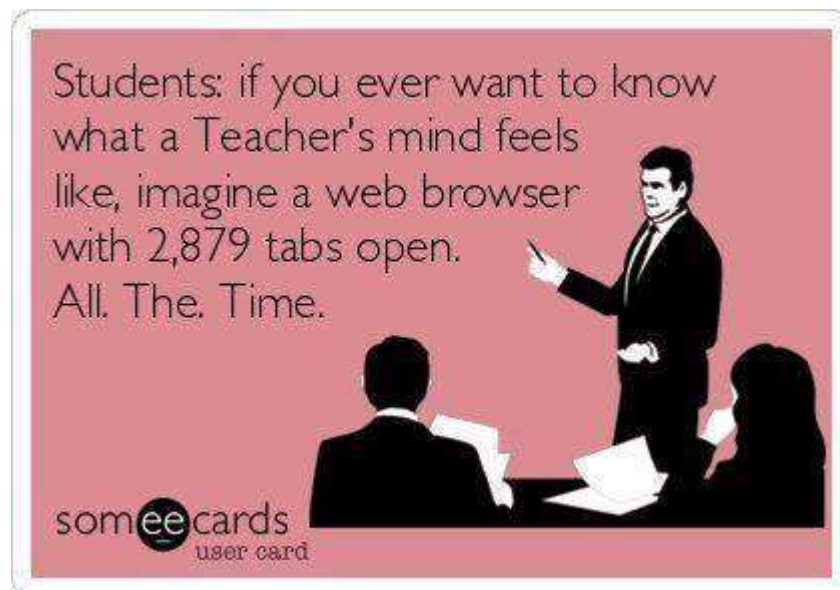
RUMOR HAS IT that TAYLOR FLETCHER, JE Class of 2007, has stepped into the middle school art teaching position caused by MACKENZIE OSTRANDER moving to a warmer climate.

RUMOR HAS IT that there was an article in the Washington Post about how the new variety of Corona started in Onondaga and Oswego County. Way to go, 315! I tried this version out and don't recommend it.

RUMOR HAS IT the JETA Swimsuit Calendar had to be delayed again to give us a better opportunity to get in shape. We apologize for the delay.

RUMOR HAS IT that the advertisement from Member Benefits on the following page helps to keep dues low, so please check it out.

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# When you're planning for the future, what's at the top of your list?

- A comfortable nest egg for retirement
- Providing for your family
- Purchasing a new home
- Home improvements
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Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org). There, you will find numerous tools and resources available to you as a NYSUT member – including a **Financial Learning Center** with articles designed to help educate you on financial decisions and topics. Member Benefits also endorses important **legal and financial services** along with an **online savings program** featuring some of today's most competitive interest rates.

Next up would be looking in the "Shopping, Travel & Personal" section of our site for **MB Discounts & Deals**. This program utilizes the nation's largest private discount network to provide NYSUT members with exclusive access to savings of up to 50% on restaurant dine-in or take out, groceries and food delivery, clothing and shoes, hotels and flights, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



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