

Hello BUP Members,

Hope you all had an enjoyable summer with family and friends.

Our first Delegate meetings is behind us and here are the highlights from our 9/12/gathering.

In attendance: Karen Kirkey, Nate Hetherington, Lauren Armstrong, Sara Piscani, Ashlee VanKouwenberg, Heather Deuel, Bob Harrison, Mark Foos, Holley Boor, Linda Lucey, Sue Hill, Carla Naegler, Rina Harris, Marilyn Holcomb, Bill Donahue, Sara Gaylard, Timothy Farnum, Mary Sue Tomkinson, Cathy Giuliano, Audrey Siebert, Lisa Cousineau, Denise Kasper, Daryl Kingsley, Karen Meredith, Maryann Quirk, Lyndsey Bly, Lisa Glasser, Michele Diehl

BUSS attended as guests to learn more about the Constitution Convention

Contract Agreement Update:

- Unanimous approval of terms by BOCES Board Of Education.
- Still months before contract completed as contract language needs to be worked on and agreed upon.
- Retroactive pay (including retro pay for ESY) and increases in near future as these increases are done by hand by H.R. and will take longer than anticipated.

Real Men Wear Pink Event

- Please join us for an event to raise money for the **Cancer Society**. Andy along with other Real men who wear pink will be at the **Lost Burrough Brewing Company** on **9/28** from 5PM-8PM. A portion of each drink sold as well as all of Andy's tips will be donated to the Cancer Society.

New Business

- All BUP members currently serving on committees were "approved" to continue serving in their role through the next assembly meeting.
- Appointments to District Professional Development Committees were "approved" for Michelle Diehl, Mark Foos, and Carla Naegler.

The Constitution Convention: presentation by Paul Hypolite NYSUT Political Action Organizer

Why vote NO for the constitution Convention

- Without BUP members would have to bargain individual contracts for themselves.
- Workers comp.: if you get hurt on the job you could get fired
- Could lose access to state parks, forests and water, ways
- Lose rights to environmental protections.
- There are pension protections in the NYS constitution. **Currently** once you are in a pension system your pension benefits cannot be diminished. A "yes" vote will put this in jeopardy for current and future retirees. (they could use our pension to balance the state budget)
- Student's right to a free and appropriate public education is in the constitution.
- **It's costly**
 - The length of the convention is not defined, so the cost could be up to \$344 million.
 - No special tax for this so the money will come from education as that is the area that has the most money
 - 204 elected officials are needed to run the convention who will be paid additional salary to participate. It's a money maker for legislators.

What Can be done about the Con Con??

- Share information with friends, relatives, and neighbors. Most people don't know about it and when polled would vote "yes" not knowing the negative drawbacks. Changes to the constitution can still be made through amendments.
- Turn over the ballot in November
- BUP will be making phone calls and having face to face conversations.

Other organizations that support saying NO to the con Con

- Planned Parenthood and Right to life groups oppose it
- NRA opposed
- "NY against corruption "has a list of organizations that are against it.
- Policeman, firefighters all fighting against this.

Other announcements

- Uncontested new delegates: [Speech](#): Sarah Bell, Lyndsey Bly, [Crisis Interveners](#): Bob Harrison, [Instructional Specialists](#): Bill Donahue

New Delegate training followed Delegate meeting.

***Clarification of the role of the delegate in attending meetings with members. We are there to support the member and uphold the contract that has been agreed upon by the members and administration. Following meetings with H.R. or administration guidance may be provided in private. Representation is to be kept confidential. We are there to support you regardless of our personal opinions. We recommend that you always bring a representative with you to said meetings. Feel free to contact us whenever a concern arises.