



# NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2005

VOLUME 33, ISSUE 2

**N**ASSAU  
**C**OMMUNITY  
**C**OLLEGE  
**F**EDERATION OF  
**T**EACHERS

**LOCAL #3150**



## FROM THE NEGOTIATING TEAM

During the General Membership meeting on October 11, 2005, the Negotiating Team sensed a level of frustration among certain faculty who wanted more information than we provided. First and foremost, we realize that communication with the membership is critical. However, both sides agreed at our very first session that we would abide by the principle of confidentiality and that neither side would negotiate in public. The major reason for this is that positions change or modify as negotiations progress. With that in mind, we can share with you that we have met a total of nine times, beginning June 6<sup>th</sup>. Our tenth session is scheduled for October 31<sup>st</sup>, where the mediator will be present. We have stood firm on our issues while the college/county team has put on the table issues concerning advisement, teaching load, faculty accountability, medical coverage and student evaluations.

The negotiating team is well prepared to deal with both our issues and the concerns of the other side. We know what the mandate of our faculty is and are committed to achieve a fair and equitable contract for the entire membership.

To our senior faculty, we need you. You have been through this before. You have seen our contract, with its faculty governance structure become a statewide model. You know how much effort and solidarity it took to achieve what too many faculty take for granted: an academic senate, sabbaticals, promotion and tenure policies that allow our peers to promote, not a dean or vice president

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## A LETTER FROM THE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dear fellow union members:

We, the members of the NCCFT Health & Safety Committee, want you to know that we are dedicated to addressing your workplace health and safety concerns as efficiently and completely as we can. If you have any concerns regarding air quality, materials safety, campus safety, campus violence, or any other workplace hazard or potential hazard, we want to listen to you.

Please be aware that our committee is comprised completely of full-time faculty members, with schedules as busy as yours, and it takes time for us to bring your concerns to the attention of the administration, and for them to reply to us. If you have already brought an issue to our attention, we are working as diligently as possible on resolving that issue. We appreciate your patience.

If you would like us to address any issues, or a status update on something that has already been brought to our attention, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our committee.

Sincerely,

NCCFT Health & Safety Committee

Co-Chairs: Thora Heeseler, Nursing  
**([th.heeseler@verizon.net](mailto:th.heeseler@verizon.net))** and  
 Charlene Pilipshen, Biology  
**([pilipsc@ncc.edu](mailto:pilipsc@ncc.edu))**

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Frances Hilliard, President - M. Debra DeSanto, Vice President - Barry Fischler, Vice President  
 James Hoyt, Secretary - Lawrence Cohen, Treasurer

**FROM NYS UT MEMBER BENEFITS:**

\*\*\*\*\* **CALENDAR REMINDERS** \*\*\*\*\*

Thursday, November 10 <sup>th</sup>	Non-tenured Faculty	11:30 AM	F-123
Tuesday, November 15 <sup>th</sup>	Executive Board Meeting	11:30 AM	G-109
Friday, December 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Legislative Breakfast	9:30 AM	CCB: 252/253
Tuesday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Executive Board Meeting	11:30 AM	G-109
Tuesday, December 20 <sup>th</sup>	End of Semester Luncheon	11:30 AM	CCB: MP Room

**HEALTH & SAFETY** cont'd.

**Committee Members:** John Day, Library, [dayj@ncc.edu](mailto:dayj@ncc.edu) / Chris Merlo, Math, [cmerlo@ncc.edu](mailto:cmerlo@ncc.edu)  
 Hugh O'Rourke, Criminal Justice, [hughor@optonline.net](mailto:hughor@optonline.net) / Fred Schoenfeld, Engineering, [schoenf@ncc.edu](mailto:schoenf@ncc.edu)  
 Fran Viscovich, Physical Sciences, [fvisco@optonline.net](mailto:fvisco@optonline.net) / Paulette Willoughby, Allied Health Science, [willoup@ncc.edu](mailto:willoup@ncc.edu)

**FROM THE NEGOTIATING TEAM** cont'd.

who can pick and choose without accountability. Every time we negotiate, the administration makes an effort to chip away at our contract and exercise what they call "managerial rights." We need our senior faculty to educate the junior faculty and affirm that the only way we can achieve our goals is by standing together in solidarity – solidarity is power and any weakness we show will be used by the opposition against us.

We thank the entire membership for its continued support and we know that your commitment to the task at hand will show itself when and if further action is necessary. *In Solidarity ---- The Negotiating Team*

**NCCFT COMMITTEES**

Much of the important work of the Union takes place through its committees. Service on Union committees is given the same recognition as service on departmental and college-wide committees. It also gives members an opportunity to become involved with the activities of the Union, while meeting faculty from outside their particular area.

The responsibilities of each of the committees are outlined in the by-laws. You may also call the union Office for further information. Most Union committees meet on an "as necessary" basis, so they will not conflict with other college committees. Committee appointments receive final approval from the NCCFT Executive Committee.

If you are interested in joining any of the follow committees, please fill out the form below and return it to the NCCFT office in F-3293.

- - - - - ✂ - - - - - **TEAR HERE** - - - - - ✂ - - - - -

**2005-2006**

**Committee Service Form – Return to NCCFT**

I am interested in serving on the following committees:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Safety Committee  | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events Committee   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Political Action Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> New Member Committee       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Committee       | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations Committee |

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ EXTENSION: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## NYSUT 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONFERENCE

By Leonard Rysdyk, Reading & Basic Ed.

Despite assurances to the contrary, the NYSUT Convention held on the weekend of October 14-17 at the Gideon Putnam hotel in Saratoga Springs, NY was not the scene of revelry and dissipation I had been hoping for. (I was told the place had a spa, but I didn't even have time for a facial. Not that I need one.) Instead it was a serious event full of informative seminars and exchanges of information among colleagues. I mean, really! On Friday, a pleasant dinner was interrupted by a stirring denunciation of WalMart's predatory business practices in the third world. (Well, I'm going to have to do something about that. I've already written up the lesson plan.) On Saturday, I was at breakfast at 7:30 to hear a history of the labor movement and before I could digest I attended back-to-back seminars on "How Mediators and Arbitrators Think" and "Collective Bargaining Simulation." I intended to mull over my morning's lessons at a pleasant lunch, but even that was interrupted by a report on public attitudes toward higher education. After a brief break it was back to work with a workshop on Distance Learning led by, among others, our own Elizabeth Wood. Even more to think about! On Sunday, instead of hangovers, there was a roundtable on Contractual Obligations. I took notes, for cryin' out loud.

Where was the dancing on tables? Let's face it: this was the kind of convention no respectable businessman, politician or even college administrator would be caught dead at. But if every NYSUT Convention is as informative and invigorating as this one, I'm just going to have to go to more. Now, excuse me, I have to go convince another class not to shop at WalMart.

## NCCFT ENDORSES NASSAU COUNTY INCUMBENTS

The NCCFT Executive Committee and Political Action Committee have voted to endorse **County Executive Tom Suozzi**, **County Comptroller Howard Weitzman**, and the incumbent members of the Nassau County Legislature in the upcoming elections. Our endorsements will be published in the NYSUT *New York Teacher* and NCC's *Vignette*. We encourage everyone to make voting a priority – cast your ballot on **November 8<sup>th</sup>**.

### NASSAU COUNTY LEGISLATURE

District

1. Kevan Abrahams (D)
2. Roger Corbin (D)
3. John Ciotti (R)
4. Denise Ford (R)
5. Joseph Scannell (D)
6. Francis Becker, Jr. (R)
7. Jeffrey Toback (D)

District

8. Vincent Muscarella (R)
9. Richard Nicolello (R)
10. Lianne Altmann (D)
11. Craig Johnson (D)
12. Peter Schmitt (R)
13. Norma Gonsalves (R)

District

14. David Mejias (D)
15. Dennis Dunne, Jr. (R)
16. Judith Jacobs (D)
17. Edward Mangano (R)
18. Diane Yatauro (D)
19. David Denenberg (D)

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