



Association
Press



Phoenix Central Schools Teacher Association



President's Report

April 2023

What Do Unions Do?

Part of my role as PCSTA President is to attend the New Teacher Orientation where I'm able to welcome our new staff, introduce them to the union, and make sure they walk away knowing exactly what our union does. I always enjoy attending this event because it gives me pause for thought. It allows me to reflect on why unions were started in the first place and where unions have taken us throughout the years.

So, what do unions do? My short answer to this question, of course, is that workers who join together in unions have higher pay, better health and retirement benefits, and an increased standard of living compared to those who don't. Oswego Classroom Teachers Association President, Carrie Patane, said it best, "But beyond that lies another deeper truth in unionism: that by joining together, by working collectively, we are better able to push the boundaries of our profession forward, we are more able to restructure the educational landscape and ensure that those who come after us will want to do the same." Since the founding of NYSUT, our union has been able to do just that, push boundaries and restructure the educational landscape, however, it is now OUR obligation to continue the work of those that came before us. Today, we fight to fix Tier 6, we fight for the funding public education deserves, we fight for fair contracts, and we fight for the respect and support educator's deserve.

The key is that WE CANNOT DO ANY OF THIS ALONE! So, thank you PCSTA! Thank you for being a change agent. Thank you for being part of a collective group that strives to make things better for our students, families, and our profession.

I encourage you to visit www.nysut.org/unionvalue for more information on the importance of union membership!

In solidarity,
Lynne

P.S.: We are looking to form a committee to organize a PCSTA New Member Program. If you have been thinking about getting involved in the PCSTA, this would be a great opportunity. We are hoping to meet a few times after school and over the summer (usually involves good food and drinks). Please reach out to any officer or building representative if you're interested.

SAVE THE DATE

PCSTA Spring Fling '23

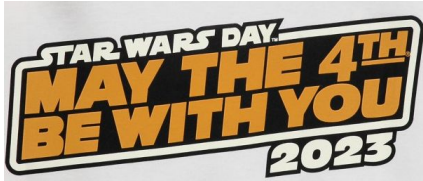
Thursday, May 4th

Lock 1 Distilling

3:15 -?

Food & Prizes provided by PCSTA

We look forward to seeing you there!



Our end of year retirement celebration will be held Wednesday, June 21. Please come out and join us for a casual get-together to honor this year's retirees.



ART SHOW & ERIN'S ANGELS FUNDRAISER Submitted by member Beth Pritchard

EJD's Empty Bowls for Erin's Angels club met after school hours for 5 weeks during the month of March to design and create various types of empty bowls. Our group of 15 students from grades 6-8 learned how to throw on the pottery wheel, make clay drape molds, and paint a variety of recycled Syracuse China bowls which will be sold at our District Art Show on Friday, May 19th from 3:30-7:00 pm. All of the proceeds from our raffle and bowl sales will go directly to Erin's Angels. The idea is to use the "Empty Bowls" that were created to fill others' by donating all of the money that we make to help fight hunger within our district! Connecting our art to benefit the larger community is rewarding for everyone involved!



Archery in PE

Submitted by member Angie Neiss

National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) is a program offered to our students in Physical Education classes. Many students learn to overcome their fears of using a bow while increasing their confidence and success. Perseverance and the 11 step approach are crucial in their success. This unit quickly became many students' favorite.



Unified Bowling Submitted by member Bill Conklin

At tonight's culminating event, the Phoenix Unified Bowling team beat 5 other teams to win their second consecutive sectional championship!!! Outscoring the 2nd place team by over 100 pins.



#Firebird
FAMILY

**Middle School Singers Perform at 4/7 Crunch Game
Submitted by member Carrie Wilson**



Above: 5th and 6th grade chorus sings God Bless America

Below: 7th and 8th grade chorus sings the National Anthem

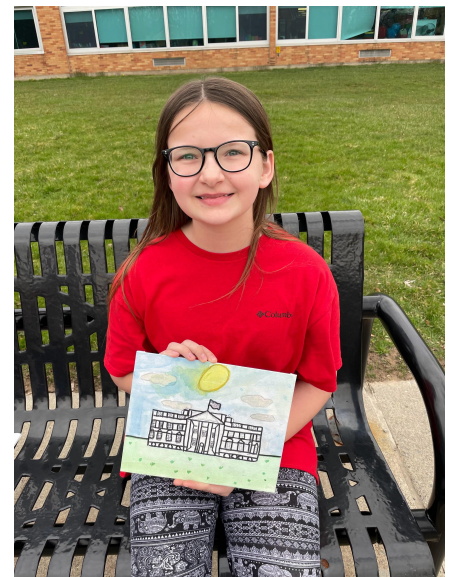


Art Learning Camp Submitted by member Renee Acuff

Students (and one sibling) from the Mixed Media Art Camp recently designed entries for the VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America contest sponsored by VFW Post 5540 in Phoenix. There were prizes awarded for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries in the 3-5 and 6-8 grade categories. The 1st place winners from both levels are going on to compete at the District 5 VFW Auxiliary competition.



Grades 3-5 winners (L-R) 1st place - Nicholas McBurnie, 2nd place - Arnold Cooper, 3rd place - Harley Dumas



Grades 6-8 winner 1st place - Olivia Nolan



The students and their entries for the Illustrating America contest

Earth Day Cleanup Submitted by member Angie Neiss

Four PCSTA members joined efforts with the Friends of Phoenix Adopt a Highway Clean up efforts at the 481 on and off ramps on Sunday, April 23 in conjunction with Earth Day Celebrations! Rebecca Eusepi, Jenn LeBrake, Traudi Ashby, and Angie Neiss!!



National Honor Society Inductees Submitted by member Angie Neiss

On Tuesday, April 18 The JCB NHS Induction celebrated 24 new Inductees. The new inductees are listed on the program!

NEW INDUCTEES

Hannah Brooker
Madalyn Carter
Owen Champion
Rehan Chowdhury
Kai Clary
Ty Corey
Alexandria Dewitt
Olivia Edwards

Miley Esposito
Eden Grethel
Landon Guertin
Hailey Hook
Douglas Jacques
Conner Klock
Katherine Kraft
Taisia Marasco

Brooklyn Olschewske
Tallen Prior
Madison Quaco
Berkleigh Schneider
Emily St. Laurent
Alivia Smith
Mariah Sutcliffe
Alexander Whaley



NHS Earth Day Cleanup Submitted by member Angie Neiss

National Honor Society students cleaned up around the village .



CHECK OUT ALL YOUR UNION MEMBERSHIP HAS TO OFFER!

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 improvement
- Purchasing a new vehicle
- Travel and entertainment

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of endorsed programs to help turn those dreams into reality.



When it comes to saving you money, protecting your family and helping you plan for the future, NYSUT Member Benefits has a variety of programs and services to help with your goals. Whether you are just starting out on your journey, well into your career or enjoying a well-deserved retirement, there is a Member Benefits-endorsed plan that may be of assistance featuring value-added extras unavailable to the public.

Get started by first bookmarking the Member Benefits website at 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, car rentals, theme parks, vehicle maintenance, and much more.



Learn more by scanning the QR code to the left, visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org or calling 800-626-8101.



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

Mar-Apr 2023

PCSTA LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

2022-2023

PCSTA Executive Board

Position	Name	Building	Phone #	Email
President	Lynne Smart	EJD	Ext. 3292 (m)315-491-6872	lsmart0817@gmail.com
1st VP- Negotiations	Colleen Longley	JCB	Ext. 2253 (m)315-901-4661	clongely97@gmail.com
2nd VP- Grievance	Rick Pento	JCB	Ext. 2102	Rickpento@yahoo.com
Secretary	Matt Wiczorek	EJD	Ext. 3287	matt630@twcny.rr.com pcstasec@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jill Pitcher	JCB	Ext. 2261	mspitch@yahoo.com

Building Reps

Building	Name	Position
MAM	Cheri Ionotti	Chief BR
MAM	Amanda Slater	BR
MAM	Renee Acuff	BR
MAM	Carrie Spoto	BR
MAM	Laura Gratz	BR
MAM	Tracey Gray	BR
MAM	Sarah Pirrello	BR
MAM	Marla Leitner	Teacher Assistant BR
EJD	Nancy Mastine	Chief BR
EJD	Doug Zogg	BR
EJD	Erin Parks	BR
EJD	Laurie Doss	Teacher Assistant BR
JCB	K.C. Bechard	Chief BR
JCB	Mike Fitzgerald	BR
JCB	Jenna Fraser	BR
JCB	Connie Pullam	Teacher Assistant BR

Check out our website: www.phoenixnyteachers.com

5 Benefits of Being a PCSTA/NYSUT Member

1. Higher pay & better health and retirement benefits
2. A contract you can rely on
3. A strong voice at work
4. Professional learning opportunities
5. NYSUT Member Benefits (insurance, financial, legal, and shopping & travel programs)

Did You Know???

- ★ No NYSUT dues dollars are used to support candidates or campaign committees.
- ★ NYSUT has a voluntary fund called VOTE-COPE. Members can elect to contribute if they want to support candidates and campaign committees that are pro-public education and pro-labor.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR ALL EMPLOYEES UNDER THE PCSTA CONTRACT:

- **Notify our district leadership by NOVEMBER 1, 2022 if you plan to retire between:**
 - **January 1, 2023 and June 29, 2023 (DURING this current school year)**
- **Notify our district leadership by FEBRUARY 1, 2023 if you plan to retire between:**
 - **June 30, 2023 and December 31, 2023 (AFTER this current school year)**



PCSTA CLASSIFIEDS

FIRE AND EARTH REIKI



Adam Schmidtman

Holy Fire® III Usui Reiki Master
Holy Fire® III Karuna® Reiki Master
Holy Fire® III Animal Reiki Practitioner
Phone: 315-380-2096
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eagle57north@gmail.com
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C-(315)350-1935

Your ad or business card could be here!!

Remember, Every Member Two Hours

The PCSTA is committed to having each of our members donate at least two hours of their time to any one of our causes or committees. One easy way to meet that obligation is to attend one of the Board of Education meetings. Can we "Count You In?" Meetings for the rest of this school year are held Monday nights at 7 at the District Office.

April 24

May 9 (Budget Hearing)

June 5

The Association Press is...

...a membership newsletter for the Phoenix Central School Teachers Association. Circulation is approximately 375, including all PCSTA members and administrators of the Phoenix Central School District. Letters to the Editor may be sent to the Editor listed. Letters will be printed subject to available space and appropriateness for the newsletter. The PCSTA is affiliated with the Oswego County Teachers Association, the Onondaga County Teachers Association, the Oswego County Labor Council, the New York State United Teachers, NEA, the American Federation of Teachers, and the AFL-CIO. Editor: Renee Acuff, PCSTA, 116 Volney Street, Phoenix, NY 13135; racuff@phoenixcsd.org