



Association  
Press



Phoenix Central Schools Teacher Association



## President's Report

June  
2021

Dear PCSTA Brothers and Sisters,

This school year has been a season of adversity for all of us, and yet here we are, so close to the finish line. To help end the year on a positive note, your PCSTA Exec Board wanted to do something to give back to our membership. We recognize that, due to Covid, our expenses have been less than we typically experience and are hoping that a small token will help bring a little extra joy to everyone as we close out the year. Keep an eye out for a special delivery in your school mailbox very soon!

Looking to the future, we can feel more hopeful and assured based on the [Governor's](#) and [NYSUT's](#) messages that students need to be back full time for in person learning in the fall. Your PCSTA Exec Team is looking forward to some positive changes for next year as well:

1. We will be bringing back full-membership meetings.
2. Newsletters will go out on a more regular basis and include a "Spotlight" section to recognize our new and veteran PCSTA members.
3. Our website will be revamped.
4. The PCSTA will have a presence in the social media world.

As the 2020-2021 school year comes to a close, I wanted to share this message of hope that was recently presented by Pastor Bruce Aubrey and really resonated with me given the times we are in:

1. Storms are INEVITABLE.
2. Storms are often UNEXPECTED.
3. Storms are INTIMIDATING.
4. [Storms can make you STRONGER.](#)

Thankfully, we can say we have made it through this "storm." Despite all the challenges this year has brought, both personally and professionally, it was our solidarity, our grit, and our commitment to our students and this community that have made us SURVIVORS. This summer, please remember to take extra special care and time to recover and reflect.

In solidarity,  
Lynne

## 2021 RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Joan Clark

**Years Teaching Assistant:** 24 1/2

**Years in the District:** 24 1/2

**Plans for retirement:** Subbing and spending time with family

**Favorite memory:** I started in Food Service. Worked Custodial and needed a full time job. The Principal and Vice Principal believed in me and offered me the TA position. They gave me a year to get my degree. I have always been grateful to them.

**What I'll miss the most:** Structure in my life 😊



**Name:** Donna Edwards

**Years Teaching Assistant:** 34

**Years in the District:** 34

**Plans for retirement:** Treasure hunting for antiques and collectibles; some traveling

**Favorite memories:** Lunchtimes to unwind and laugh and pronouncing a student's name completely wrong! Rammon Colon (I pronounced it the way it was spelled and I'll let you imagine how I said it)!

**What I'll miss the most:** Many students and my entire EJD family!



**Name:** Rosamond (Roe) Kline

**Years Teaching Assistant:** 24

**Years in the District:** 24

**Plans for retirement:** Spend time with family and friends; do some home projects, and travel a bit

**Favorite memory:** I have many great memories from my time in Phoenix...too many to write!

**What I'll miss the most:** The people I worked with and I always said that I laughed every day. Kids are just plain funny. It makes your day!



# 2021 RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Carol Tournon

**Years Teaching:** 36

**Years in the District:** 34

**Plans for retirement:** I plan to do a bit of traveling (3 trips already planned, getting out of New York for the winter, enjoying the sun, and simply living life to its fullest.

**Favorite memory:** Our yearly Thanksgiving feast - the students, with the help of staff, planned the menu, decided what family member and staff to invite, prepared the whole meal, from removing the gizzard and heart of the turkey, to peeling the potatoes, making the desserts and setting the table. The smiles and excitement of passing the basket of thanks around the table and sharing what was important to each of us made us a true school family.

**What I'll miss the most:** I am going to miss my staff and the love and care they gave the students day in and day out. I have been very fortunate to always have colleagues that gave everything and more to the students we worked with. Thank you Phoenix for giving me the opportunity to be part of your family.



**Name:** Maureen Clark

**Years Teaching:** 31

**Years in the District:** 31

**Plans for retirement:** Travel, volunteer, adopt a puppy, and whatever else speaks to me!

**Favorite memories:** Grading the Regents with Dana and the Ricks; all the laughs with past colleagues (especially my partner in crime, Dana Yagan); the get togethers staff used to have, especially end of the year; teaching some great students and the interactions with them; chair races down the hall with some of the AP Bio students, field trips near and far, AP Bio students at MAM, science department Halloween costumes :)

**What I'll miss the most:** The student interactions and the discussions we would have; lunches when we (staff) used to all eat together



## 2021 RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Patty Lazarz

**Years Teaching:** 30

**Years in the District:** 30

**Plans for retirement:** I'm looking forward to a more relaxed lifestyle and spending more time with family and friends. My husband David's business is seasonal and he has the winters free. We will be traveling to warmer places during the winter. It will be nice to travel and not worry about scheduling around school breaks. I'm looking forward to the time I will have to consider possibilities of things I'd like to do.

**Favorite memory:** I have so many wonderful memories of Elm Street (Michael A Maroun). I consider myself fortunate to have worked with such amazing people and cherish the friendships I have made along the way! I love the first day of school! Everyone is excited, refreshed and ready to start a new year!!! I have always loved getting to know a new group of students! I also get very emotional on the last day waving to the kids on the buses. After making a classroom family during the year, waving goodbye has always been difficult.

**What I'll miss the most:** This one is easy--the kids and the staff!



**Name:** Gail Middleton

**Years Teaching Assistant:** 22

**Years in the District:** 22

**Plans for retirement:** Gardening, camping, and traveling to visit family that live out of state a lot more

**Favorite memory:** Our class annual Christmas shopping and lunch trip, seeing the sense of pride in students when they accomplish their goals.

**What I'll miss the most:** The great students and staff that I have had the pleasure of working with through the years.



## 2021 RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

- Name:** Carol Blackburn
- Years Teaching:** 31
- Years in the District:** 24 1/2
- Plans for retirement:** I plan to spend more time with my family, travel some, volunteer my time, stay past Labor Day at camp, and remain active in NYSUT at the county and state level
- Favorite memory:** The first class I taught in 1978. I was 21 and many of my students became friends later in life and have remained friends since.
- What I'll miss the most:** I will miss the people, both students and staff.



- Name:** Nora Germain
- Years Teaching:** 26
- Years in the District:** 26
- Plans for retirement:** Stay home mom and lots of gardening!
- Favorite memory:** MAM Christmas concerts with the little children!
- What I'll miss the most:** Working with students and staff



- Name:** Sandy Silky
- Years Teaching:** 25
- Years in the District:** 20
- Plans for retirement:** Travel and spend time with my kids and grandkids!
- Favorite memories:** My favorite memories are in the 15+ years working with Laurie Doss. So many beautiful, silly memories with my forever sidekick!
- Other:** I would like to say thank you to the fabulous staff at EJD who have created such a fun learning environment for our students. I wish you all happiness and continued success. Don't forget that laughter is good for the soul. Farewell, EJD!



## 2021 RETIREE SPOTLIGHT

**Name:** Karen Shaffer

**Years Teaching:** 33+

**Years in the District:** 33+

**Plans for retirement:** I retired somewhat sooner than I had anticipated due to my husband's health issues. He was admitted to Strong Hospital in Rochester at the end of May and was placed on the heart transplant list. He will remain there until a heart becomes available and is discharged after surgery.

My entire life has been devoted to planning, setting goals, and being in control. If nothing else, these past 8 months have forced me and my family to become more flexible and to take life day by day. My middle child had been planning her wedding to take place on October 2, 2021 for almost 2 years; however, following a transplant, it is imperative for the patient to avoid crowds and large gatherings for approximately a year. With less than 4 months until her wedding date, it would not be possible for my husband to walk our daughter down the aisle. So, in literally a couple of days, we were able to arrange for her to get married in the chapel of the hospital on June 11. A small reception consisting of approximately 40 family members and close friends was held that same evening in Liverpool. Though my husband and I were not able to attend that event, we feel fortunate to have been the only family members to witness the wedding.

At this point my only goal for retirement is to see my husband get through this adventure! Once his health is restored, we're both looking forward to doing whatever we feel like doing. And, most importantly, we're looking forward to living in the moment. So much of our lives have been devoted to planning and setting goals that we haven't always enjoyed what we had when we had it. So, I'd have to say that my plan for retirement is to appreciate and focus on the many positive things in my life, for my experience has proven to me that time passes much too quickly.

**Favorite memory:** I'm sorry to say I have no single favorite memory to report; however, I have many fond memories. I worked with some amazing individuals throughout my career, who have become lifelong friends!

**What I'll miss the most:** I cannot believe how fast more than 30 years of teaching passed by! There's so much I miss already! Off the top of my head, one of the things I'll miss the most is Open House, believe it or not! I always enjoyed meeting the families (even though it was so early in the school year when I hardly knew my students) In the later years open house became more of a reunion since several of my current students' parents were former students of mine!

**We wish you a wonderful retirement!**

**You will all be missed!!**

# UNION FIGHTS AND WINS! APPR

In a major victory for NYSUT, a new law ensures K-12 districts are not required to complete annual professional performance reviews for 2020–21 and will not lose any school aid as a result.

It means superintendents may grant tenure to educators who, in their discretion, are eligible and otherwise qualified, except for the absence of an APPR rating for the 2019-2020 and/or 2020-2021 school years.

“NYSUT fought throughout this legislative session for this law to ensure fairness in the tenure system for K-12 teachers in a year like no other,” said President Andy Pallotta.

COVID-19 raised unprecedented obstacles, challenges and detours, and “educators have doubled their efforts to tend to students’ academic, social and emotional needs throughout the pandemic,” he said.

“This law recognizes that commitment by no longer requiring districts to complete APPR this year while still providing administrators with flexibility in making tenure decisions under the unique circumstances of the pandemic.

“This is a win-win for educators and their districts.”

The governor’s signature enacted the law June 7.



# Not sure where to start with your summer to-do list?

Whether it's assisting NYSUT members with everyday essentials, important choices about insurance needs, or making prudent decisions about financial and legal concerns, NYSUT Member Benefits can help.



Scan the QR code below to learn more about the following endorsed programs and services.

## Saving you money: MB Discounts & Deals

With the Member Benefits Discounts & Deals program, NYSUT members can save up to 50% at more than 700,000 merchants nationwide (including thousands throughout New York State). Save on groceries and food delivery; restaurant dine-in or takeout; gasoline, oil changes and vehicle maintenance; clothing and shoes; and much more. You can even request that your favorite merchant join the network.

## Saving you money: Every \$\$\$ counts

Whether your summer plans include home renovations, replacing or upgrading appliances, getting a new car, stocking up for the return to school, or even just hanging out and enjoying some time off, Member Benefits has a variety of endorsed programs -- Purchasing Power, Buyer's Edge Inc., Office Depot/OfficeMax, Bose, Powell's Books -- that might be able to minimize the impact on your wallet and maximize your enjoyment of the all-too-fleeting summer months.



## Protecting your family: Insuring yourself and your family

Member Benefits endorses a number of competitive insurance programs that are available to NYSUT members. These include auto/home/renters, life, disability, long term care, dental, vision, and even pet insurance. Some of these programs are also available to or cover spouses/domestic partners of members, dependent children, dependent parents, and grandparents. Most offer payroll & pension deduction as payment options.

## Planning for the future: Have a plan for wherever life takes you

It's never too early or too late to make a plan. Just starting a career or looking at retirement? Beginning to pay off loans or building a nest egg? Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you're in? Welcoming a new child or adopting? Now would be a good time to look into the ways to put a plan in place or make adjustments to your existing one. Explore the Member Benefits Financial Learning Center for assistance; while you're there, check out our Legal Service Plan and Financial Counseling Program.

NYSUT Member Benefits offers dozens of programs and services that are available to NYSUT members and their families, including the following options:



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LONG-TERM CARE & DISABILITY

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org), call 800-626-8101 or scan the QR code above.

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





Please find enclosed information regarding discounted tickets for your NYSUT team members. Six Flags Darien Lake offers these discounted tickets to your members to say thank you for your dedication to your school and children! **NYSUT Days are July 5- July 30, 2021.** Members can use their tickets for any ONE day during that week, they pick the day that is most convenient for them. Tickets are valid for the Theme Park AND water park and are a **\$36.00 SAVINGS!** You will also receive **FREE PARKING!** (a \$20.00 value) Park hours are 11:00 am to 9:00 pm.

ALL tickets must be purchased online at [Sixflags.com/darienlake](https://Sixflags.com/darienlake). Click the Enter Promo Code on the top right of the home page:

The image shows a screenshot of a website's promo code entry section. At the top, there is a dark grey button labeled "Enter Promo". Below it is a white input field with a dark grey border, containing the placeholder text "Enter Promo Code". To the right of the input field is a dark grey button labeled "GO".

You can then enter the promocode: NYSUT

We hope to see you during our NYSUT week.

Sincerely,

SIX FLAGS DARIEN LAKE

## PCSTA Classified

**LABC**  
*Seamstress*

Alterations, Beginning  
Sewing Lessons,  
Crafts

*Jandra North  
Seamstress*

9424 Second Street  
Phoenix, NY 13135  
eagle57north@gmail.com  
(315) 695-4874

Reverie 3E Adjustable Split California King Bed. It has two Twin XL Aireloom Pure Luxury Mattresses, measuring L:80, W:38, and H: 14.75. It has had very little use and comes with the two remotes and two sheet sets. I have the original paperwork that pertains to the base of the bed, from Raymour and Flanigan. I have owned it since 2018 and paid 3500.00 for it. I would like to get \$1500.00 or best offer. 315-317-8629. Serious offers only. Terri (Noel) Adams

Tracey Gray

727-2392

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ERIN J. MOORE  
PHOTOGRAPHY

## DID YOU KNOW? The PCSTA donated \$500 to Erin's Angels.

Remember, Every Member 2 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?" Attend one of the virtual meetings online!

KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
UNION  
STRONG

## The Association Press is...

.....a membership newsletter for the Phoenix Central School Teacher's 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, New York 13135, racuff@phoenixcsd.org