

# BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION IMPACT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRENTWOOD TEACHERS ASSOCIATION  
VOLUME 39, NUMBER 3



## Pro-Labor Candidates Need YOUR Support on Election Day

As you know, NYSUT does not get directly involved with town and county political races; however, our brother and sister affiliates of the AFL-CIO do. As members of the labor movement and participants in the Long Island Federation of Labor, we need to get out and vote on **November 8** and *strongly consider* those candidates supported by labor unions.

After an arduous interview process, the Long Island Federation of Labor endorsed the Suffolk County candidates below. Please be reminded that the elected candidates in Suffolk County will serve as the Board of Education for our brothers and sisters at Suffolk County Community College as well. We all know how important it is to have partners in education at any level.

In many cases, the labor candidates in Nassau County are those who are opposing the anti-labor, anti-public employee incumbents.

A large turnout from the general public is not expected at the polls this year. If we can get our members out and in the habit of supporting pro-labor candidates, we can help send the message that attacking unions will have consequences on Election Day.

We are encouraging you, your colleagues, and family members to get out to vote and vote pro-labor. Please see the list of endorsed labor candidates in both Nassau and Suffolk Counties below. Every vote counts.

Kevin Coyne,  
*BTA Political Action Chairperson*

### Suffolk County Executive and Legislature Pro-Labor Endorsements

#### Suffolk County Executive - Steve Bellone

**LD 1** Ed Romaine

**LD 2** Jay Schneiderman

**LD 3** Kate Browning

**LD 4** Tom Muratore

**LD 5** Kara Hahn

**LD 6** Sarah Anker

**LD 7** Rob Calarco

**LD 8** Bill Lindsey

**LD 9** Rick Montano

**LD 10** Tom Cilmi

**LD 11** no endorsement

**LD 12** John Kennedy

**LD 13** Lynne Nowick

**LD 14** Wayne Horsley

**LD 15** DuWayne Gregory

**LD 16** Steve Stern

**LD 17** Lou D'Amaro

**LD 18** Bill Spencer

### Nassau County Legislature Pro-Labor Endorsements

**LD 3** Carrie Solages

**LD 4** Denise Ford

**LD 7** Adam Moser

**LD 13** Pat Maher

**LD 14** Eva Pearson

**LD 15** Ethan Irwin

**LD 18** Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

**LD 19** Dave Denenberg

No endorsements in all other Nassau County Legislative Districts

## Labor Rights

### Background

As the nation's economy remains stagnant and states contend with crippling budget constraints, union members — and in particular those employed in the public sector — have come under an unprecedented level of attack nationwide. From Wisconsin to New Jersey, Ohio to Indiana, unions have served as the scapegoat for the nation's financial woes. Even New York State, which historically has been friendly to labor, has not been exempt. For example, there are some in Albany who want to abolish the Triborough Amendment, end seniority rights, and dramatically change the pension law. Meanwhile, tenure — always a favorite target of union critics — has come under fire, as well. These are direct attacks on collective bargaining and on the dignity of all workers. The battles we have seen in states such as Wisconsin are about public-sector employees retaining a voice in their profession and future. As New York State heads toward another challenging budget year, we must continue to stand up and be heard.

### Where We Stand

- The attacks launched on public unions, which will continue as our economic problems persist, aim to strip away worker rights and destroy the collaborative partnerships that have been established between labor and management. They are not about pay and benefits, pensions, and health care.
- Union workers did not cause the fiscal problems that have been seen in states across the nation.
- Consider this point, as written by Ezra Klein in *The Washington Post*, 2/18/11: "*Whatever fiscal problems Wisconsin is -- or is not -- facing at the moment, they're not caused by labor unions. That's also true for New Jersey, for Ohio, and for the other states... Blame the*

*banks. Blame global capital flows. Blame lax regulation of Wall Street. Don't blame the unions. Not for this recession."*

- Unions have not bankrupted states. Wall Street recklessness and CEO greed caused our financial problems and threw our country into recession. Fire-fighters, nurses, teachers, and other public employees are easy targets and blaming these public-sector workers is an old game played again and again by some politicians.
- While studies show that public workers actually make less in total compensation than their private-sector counterparts, the real question here is: Why are our elected leaders playing partisan politics — scapegoating teachers, those who plow our roads in snowstorms, nurses, and first responders — instead of working together to create jobs?
- Teachers and unionists throughout the nation are speaking up for basic labor rights that give voice to working people. We are standing up and speaking out for what we believe. This is the very cornerstone of democracy, and we should not shy away from speaking about our values.

## Goods and Services

**~2 Bedroom Condo in Holbrook~  
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## Towards a Greener Retirement

When you are thinking of your retirement, the green that comes to mind is the money you will receive each month. Now, however, the **NYS Teachers Retirement System** is doing its part for the environment. You can now elect to have your quarterly newsletter, "The Source," sent to you online. You can also have future yearly benefit files sent to your e-mail address. Please note, even if you elect to "go green," all 2011 profiles will be sent through the U.S. Mail. Not only does this save paper, but the system will save money, and you will have less mail in your mailbox.

The Federal Government has already made this change and is no longer sending out yearly estimates of benefits. To access your SSA information, go to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). To request your NYSTRS mail online, you must have a NYSTRS account. Go to [www.nystrs.org](http://www.nystrs.org) to sign up. Your benefit profile for 2011 will start coming in November. If you have had an address or name change, you must contact the System and request a change of address/name form. They will not do this over the phone. Please read it carefully to check that all information is correct, and store in a safe place!

Ed. Callaghan, NYSTRS Delegate

## Entertainment 2012

Entertainment 2012 offers hundreds of ways to save up to 50% off on fine and casual dining, airfare, hotels, car rentals, movies, sporting and cultural events, dry cleaning, car washes, video rentals, and much more.

The books are \$30 and are available for sale in the BTA Office. If you would like to purchase one, please see your Chief Delegate.

### **IMPACT**

is published by the  
Brentwood Teachers Association  
Local 2514

Affiliated with NYSUT, AFT,  
NEA, & AFL-CIO

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