

Hearing Education Services



CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



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UFT Delegates: Caryn Benjamin, Betty Hintz

September 2009

MESSAGE FROM Cecilia Cortez

I hope you had a great summer and you are well rested.

I am excited to be starting my first year of the three-year term as the newly elected chapter leader of HES. It is my hope that this year will be even better than last year. Your issues are my issues, all are important, and I look forward to hearing from you, and representing you.

As you know, we have a new UFT President, Michael Mulgrew. He replaces Randi Weingarten, who will continue her role as AFT president. One of his first responsibilities will be negotiating a new contract; the current contract expires October 31. I will do my best to keep you posted on the latest information as it comes to me from the union leadership. As always, I will also continue to bring to the union leadership the concerns and issues as they relate to HES staff.

Another of my responsibilities will be to meet with Helen Kaufman (assistant to District 75 superintendent). We meet on a monthly basis with the HES UFT Consultation Committee. I welcome your participation and your suggestions for agenda items. Please contact me if you would like to be a member (we meet after school on Wednesdays once a month in Manhattan), or if you would like to place an item on the following month's agenda. The more participation and input we have the greater our united voice. Minutes will be provided to all members. First on the agenda this year will be the continued discussion on parking and permits. I will discuss with Helen as well as with union leadership. I understand how important this issue is for us.

Occasionally, grievances need to be filed when our contractual rights have been violated. If you believe you have a grievance, please contact me immediately. If not resolvable informally I will assist all HES members in filing Step 1 grievances. While I cannot guarantee the outcome of any particular grievance, I can guarantee it will be filed and heard. Step 1 is with Helen Kaufman and I will represent you. Should a grievance need to go to the next step (the chancellor), the UFT borough office will assist you.

—Cecilia

Things to do

- Read the UFT newspaper, the *New York Teacher*.
- Go online to the UFT Web site, www.uft.org, to get the latest information and “sign up” to get e-mails and alerts. Click on the “sign up” button on the HES Chapter page, which you can find by clicking on “My Chapter.”
- Attend UFT chapter meetings in your home school for general information.
- Look for information on the health care transfer plan, aka the open enrollment period (changes made in November will take effect in January).
- Check to see that any unused sick days from Chapter 683 program are added to your CAR.
- File U-rating appeals in your UFT borough office for any Chapter 683 U-ratings.



Events

SEPT. 24, 2009

**Cervical cancer:
What You Need To Know
Not To Get It!**

5-7 p.m., UFT Headquarters
5th floor auditorium.

Carolyn Jacobson, director of Cervical Cancer Prevention Works (CCPW), will provide information that will help women avoid this disease, which is close to 100% preventable.

**“It is one of the characteristics
of a free and democratic nation
that it have free
and independent labor unions.”**

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

