



## CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Dear Sarah,

What a busy year it has been. As a result of our members' hard work and dedication, the UFT won some major battles in 2017. Working together, we helped persuade New York voters to reject the constitutional convention. We have protected our pensions as well as other rights and benefits we have because we're union members.

I am pleased to announce that more than 80 nurses joined the School Nurses Chapter this year, and I welcome them. I also want to thank the 44 nurses who attended the Nov. 13 orientation. Staff from the UFT Health and Welfare Fund, as well as the Pension and Political Action departments, provided information regarding the many benefits our union offers its members.

The School Nurses Chapter has another orientation scheduled on Monday, Feb. 26. We currently have 700 members, and we keep growing. I encourage every member to attend our chapter meetings so that all our concerns and ideas can be discussed together. Our contract will expire on Oct. 31, 2018, and discussions regarding contract demands will be a major topic at these meetings. Your input and participation are vital for our chapter and the UFT's future.

In unity,

Cathy Connolly  
School Nurses Chapter Leader

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### School Nurse Chapter Meeting on Oct. 25

On Oct. 25, 40 nurses attended our chapter meeting, which was held at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway, in Manhattan.

Our guest speaker was Paul Egan, UFT political director. Mr. Egan gave us a full account of why we all needed to vote "NO" on Nov. 7 regarding the constitutional convention. The union's campaign to educate members on this issue was extremely successful. We won by a landslide — 82 percent voted against the referendum.

Though we won this fight, we have another significant battle ahead of us. Unions across the country are under attack from corporations and big business. They want to take away the rights of the middle class by destroying unions. Their goal is to stop the union from collecting fees from workers who want to enjoy the benefits of a union-negotiated contract without joining the union.

The Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments for Feb. 26 to hear *Janus v. AFSCME*. This case originated in February 2015 when Mark Janus, a child-support specialist with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, filed the lawsuit bankrolled by anti-union, conservative organizations. Although the case was dismissed, Mr. Janus petitioned for review by the U.S. Supreme Court. The court accepted the case and a decision is expected later this spring.

We will keep you updated on this case and its ramifications for organized labor. To [learn more about the Janus case](#) and its impact, read the collection of articles on the UFT website.

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## Deadline looms to file for Teacher's Choice money

Everyone should have received their Teacher's Choice money in the Dec. 1 paycheck. For more information, please see the [DOE's Teacher's Choice guidelines](#) or visit the [School Nurses Chapter page](#) on the UFT website. If you have any questions regarding submitting your receipts, please speak to the payroll secretary at your school.

Please note: The deadline to make purchases was Jan. 14, and the deadline to hand in your original receipts with the Accountability Form attached is Jan. 19.

Also note: If you are assigned to a stand-alone charter school and you send your time sheet to Kenny Chez, please send your Teacher's Choice receipts to him.

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## Office of Labor Relations Meeting on Nov. 13

The School Nurses Chapter met with the Office of Labor Relations on Nov. 13 to discuss a number of issues. This meeting covered questions regarding payroll issues and photographing students who may be child abuse victims. These issues, and others discussed on Nov. 13, were also discussed on Dec. 6 in consultation with the Office of School Health. (That report follows this item.)

### **1. Status of training required by revised child abuse regulation:**

Chancellor's Regulation A-750 on Child Abuse and Maltreatment Prevention was updated on Sept. 28, 2017. The new regulation requires that all school staff must receive training that will enable them to carry out the reporting and other responsibilities. Of significance to school nurses, the policy updates the requirement that photographs be taken of any visible injuries. The school nurse and a designated staff member must be trained on the photography procedures. When "feasible and appropriate," photographs should be taken in the nurse's office.

To the best of our knowledge, the trainings required by the new regulation have not yet been

completed. OSH is collaborating with other agencies to develop photography training for school nurses. The training will be reviewed by the UFT and DC 37 before it is rolled out. In the meantime, if you are requested to photograph visible injuries of child abuse or maltreatment, contact your nursing supervisor for further guidance.

## **2. List of nurses in freestanding charter schools:**

Our chapter has requested a list of nurses who are working in freestanding charter schools. We also raised the issue that these nurses do not have access to the DOE's web-based automated time and attendance system, CyberShift, and therefore may not have received the Teacher's Choice money. Please contact me at [cconnolly@uft.org](mailto:cconnolly@uft.org) if you did not receive the funds.

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## **Consultation with Office of School Health on Dec. 6**

UFT consultant Liz Truly, PM staffer BJ Darby, Director of Nursing Gail Adman, Assistant Director of Nursing Anne-Marie Ashmeade and I met for consultation on Dec. 6.

### **1. Safe auto-injectors for allergic reactions:**

We asked if OSH would receive funding to replace generic devices with non-safe needles with devices with safe needles. Unfortunately, OSH has not received the funding for this. This affects the training of teachers and other staff who work with students who have brought in EpiPens with non-retractable needles. The Office of School Health is preparing guidance for schools on how to address this situation.

### **2. Nursing coverage:**

We discussed the guidelines regarding when a nurse is pulled to cover another site. A request for an agency nurse is the first step in coverage. However, when an agency nurse is not available, the supervisor may pull a nurse from a two-nurse site to provide coverage. Depending on acuity level, a Public Health Nurse II or PHN II may also be directed to cover the site.

When a staff nurse is asked to cover, the supervisor should review the skilled nursing needs in the school they are going to cover. The skills of the nurse asked to cover and travel hardship should be taken into account.

When you are pulled to another site, please email me at [cconnolly@uft.org](mailto:cconnolly@uft.org) so that this practice can be monitored by the union.

### **3. Payroll Issues:**

If you have experienced a significant delay in receiving overtime payment, please let us know by visiting the [School Nurse Chapter page](#) on the UFT website. On the [Salary and Benefits page](#), you can fill out a General Salary Inquiry Form or an Overtime Waiver Inquiry Form. A UFT salary representative will contact you within a week. (If you do not hear from anyone, please email me at [cconnolly@uft.org](mailto:cconnolly@uft.org) with the information.)

### **4. Photographs of students who may be victims of child abuse; reporting obligation of school nurses:**

The school nurse can be assigned to take photo of a student along with two other individuals. Until official training for photographing any student is finalized, you should contact your supervisor when asked to photograph a suspected injury on a student.

**5. DOE nurses in charter schools:** In response to our request for a list of nurses who are assigned to stand-alone charter schools, we received the following information: There are 26 DOE staff nurses, 26 DOH public health nurses and 39 agency nurses assigned to these sites. (These 39 sites are listed on the vacancy list.)

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## UFT Functional Chapter Leader Weekend

On Nov. 18-19, three of our nurses, Janet Carter, Mary Whelan and Claudia Richardson-Byam, and PM staffer BJ Darby, joined me in attending the UFT Functional Chapter Weekend, which took place at the Hilton Westchester in Rye, NY.

Paul Egan, UFT political director, presented at the plenary. He explained the issues raised by the Janus v. AFSCME Supreme Court case discussed above.

The remainder of the day was filled with several helpful workshops. Joe Usatch, assistant director of the UFT Welfare Fund, spoke at a workshop on UFT health and welfare benefits. Mr. Usatch highlighted some additional changes to coverage, which I have listed below.

1. Coverage for Dependent Children may be continued from age 26 to a 30th birthday for an additional fee of \$70.68 per month. (Rate changes yearly.)
2. The NYC PICA Prescription Drug Plan covers two categories of drugs: injectable and chemotherapy. Mylan's generic epinephrine auto-injector has a safety needle and is covered under the PICA Program. Contact Express Scripts, the PICA Administrator, for further information at 1-800-467-2006.
3. Mylan makes the brand name EpiPen and the generic epinephrine auto-injector. The brand name EpiPen is NOT covered by PICA. (According to our pharmacy team the generic and brand name devices are almost identical.)

Detailed information about health benefits can be found on the [UFT Welfare Fund website](#) and in the updated [Red Apple Benefits Guide](#).

With contract negotiations starting this spring, Howard Schoor, UFT secretary, provided an overview on how to develop a bargaining survey for our chapter. We'll soon mail you a survey asking, "What are your priorities for the next round of bargaining?" This is your opportunity to speak up about issues that concern you.

The survey results will be analyzed and prioritized for submission to our negotiating team.

This is *your* contract, which protects your rights and benefits as school nurses, so please take the time to complete the survey and return it to me.

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## Upcoming events

Monday, Feb. 26 — School Nurse Orientation from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway, in Manhattan, 19th floor, room F. Nurses attending have been notified by the Office of School Health.

Wednesday, Feb. 28 — School Nurse Chapter meeting from 4:30 to 6 p.m. at UFT headquarters, 52 Broadway, in Manhattan, 19th floor, rooms D and E. [Register online now »](#)

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## Executive Board members

Cynthia Bennett (Queens)  
Beverly Briggs (Bronx)  
Janet Carter (Queens)  
Ellen Sebastiano (Brooklyn)  
Marie Thompson (District 75)  
Jessie Warren (Queens)  
Mary Whelan (Manhattan)  
BJ Darby, PM Staffer

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sherman@uft.org is currently subscribed to the UFT email list. If you would like to stop receiving emails from the UFT, you can unsubscribe at any time.

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