



UFT nuzlædæ

Speech Improvement

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Dear Ebony,

Welcome to a new school year! I hope that you found time over the summer for exciting activities or spent time catching up on books and movies or seeing family and friends. But, however you spent the summer, I hope it was productive and fulfilling.

The chapter welcomes all of the newest members to our ranks. Our chapter now boasts more than 3,200 speech teachers and speech language pathologists. We hope that you will join us at meetings at UFT headquarters.

A podcast of each meeting will be available afterward — members who have questions but cannot attend the meeting should write to Mindy prior to the meeting so the questions can be answered during the podcast. Our first meeting of the year is on Thursday Sept. 14, from 4 to 6 p.m. (Please note: We usually meet on Wednesdays, but due to holidays and parent-teacher conferences, we've moved this particular meeting.)

For our newest members, our chapter offers “speech survival classes”— locations will be posted online soon.

Our hotline will continue to be available Monday through Friday, from 4 to 6 p.m. at (212) 598-7774. If you need immediate attention, or if you have an emergency or time-sensitive situation, always contact your UFT borough office. Emails to MBornemann@uft.org are welcome but phone calls to the hotline are returned more quickly by all of our chapter hotline representatives. Remember: Do not use DOE email for correspondence with your chapter leader.

Previous newsletters and other important chapter information is available on the [UFT website](#).

Below is an outline of some of the issues that we've addressed throughout the summer and others that we will continue to work on during the school year.

Sincerely,

Mindy Karten Bornemann
Speech Chapter Leader

Summer Payroll and Medicaid Differential Updates

There's been a lack of timely payment for speech teachers working per session programs during the summer outside District 75. Our chapter worked with personnel and payroll specialists at the UFT to resolve the situation. Speech teachers who worked this summer should have received all their summer pay by Aug. 15.

Prior to next year's summer programs, our chapter will work out the details to ensure that the late payments that occurred this year don't happen again.

If you have an issue that needs to be resolved, contact the chapter quickly because it can take time to work with the DOE to address these problems.

Medicaid Agreement Updates

During the summer, the chapter continued to contact and pressure the DOE regarding payment to members who are still owed their Medicaid differentials. Although many speech language pathologists have received their differentials, we have filed a union-initiated grievance on behalf of members who entered their credentials into the New York City Automated Personnel System and have still not received their differential during the last school year. If you have never contacted the speech chapter before about your differential, email Mindy with your personal information and a snapshot of the information in the New York City Automated Personnel System.

Our chapter will continue to meet as part of the labor management committee to move forward on other issues, including reimbursement for speech language pathology licenses, space and supply survey and other important parts of the agreement. We will update you by email on these important issues.

District 75 and Mandated Sessions

Speech teachers in District 75 summer programs were working nine sessions at many sites and some members had been directed to provide sessions back-to-back without travel time. We told the DOE that speech teachers are not required to provide more than eight sessions per day and explained that, without travel time, many students could not receive their full mandated service. Due to our advocacy, Helen Kaufman, administrative superintendent for District 75, wrote to supervisors and members confirming that there should be no “overlapping times” entered in SESIS and that providers should have 15 minutes in their schedule that can be used between sessions. The email also said that providers' schedules should reflect nine 30-minute sessions. We are not satisfied with this response and we are reviewing our options with the UFT Grievance Department. Until this is resolved, be sure to follow the directives of your supervisor and please let us know if you have been directed to provide more than eight sessions or if a lack of travel time is impeding your ability to provide full service to your students.

SEGIS Updates Now Available

In August, the chapter met with the DOE about the SESIS scheduled updates. The DOE told us that it is devoting significant resources, personnel and time to make the updates work. Encounter attendance updates are prioritized for November. There will be more training available both online and in person, Assistance from a new technology team and some new features for Individualized Educational Programs may look differently as you work on SESIS.

New Individualized Educational Program features:

- A voice-enabled feature will be available for our Chromebooks if you use Google Chrome. This should help reduce eye and hand strain.
- A mouseover feature that will make printing easier.
- Arrows that allow you to move from page to page without the drop-down feature.
- A new calendar item shows each student’s annual review and triennial dates which can be put into upcoming calendar events.

modification occurred.

- Please note: If you do not have a Chromebook, which was negotiated as part of the Medicaid agreement, please let your supervisor know as soon as possible.

In related news, we'll send more information about the SESIS payment this fall.

Vote Against a State Constitutional Convention and Stand Together to Protect Workers' Rights

New Yorkers will go to the polls on Nov. 7 to vote on whether to hold a state constitutional convention. It is vital that we vote "no" on this issue. Anti-union forces are committed to destroying our pensions, as well as our right to organize and collectively bargain. Tell your family and friends to join you at the polls on Nov. 7 and vote "no!"

[Read more](#) about why we must vote down a constitutional convention.

Watch [this video](#) about the dangers of a convention.

At the federal level, public employee unions are facing an enormous challenge this year. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the Janus v. AFSCME court case that seeks to debilitate unions by declaring fair-share or agency fees unconstitutional. These fees cover the costs a union incurs representing and providing services for people who do not choose to belong to a union.

As we brace for this decision, we need every single one of you to remind your colleagues about the benefits of belonging to a union: a defined-benefit pension, employer-paid health insurance, due process rights, tenure, a grievance process, and a voice in how schools are run. Unions, through our voluntary donations to COPE, also provide us a place at the table in Albany as well as at the City Council.

Come to our chapter meetings, participate in our events and keep our union the strong force it's been for more than 50 years!

Again, I hope to see you on Thursday Sept. 14. I'll email an invitation to all chapter members. The meeting will be held at UFT Headquarters, at 52 Broadway in Manhattan. We look forward to your active participation.

OUR CHAPTER | OUR UNION



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