



## Supervisors of Nurses and Therapists

### CHAPTER NEWSLETTER



Dear Friend,

Happy summer! It is amazing to see how fast June has arrived as we close out the 2017-18 school year. Please join me in welcoming our new chapter leader, OT Supervisor Crystal Ogir. Crystal brings a new and positive energy to our chapter. I implore you to demonstrate your support for Crystal and our union by starting off next school year with the goal to attend chapter meetings and participate in union activities.

Along with OT Supervisor Donnette Williams and Nurse Supervisor Mayra Washington, Crystal has played an active role on the chapter's negotiation committee. The negotiation committee meets regularly with union leaders to prioritize and create arguments for our contractual demands. It has been a positive learning process and we look forward to providing you with updates as we move closer into negotiations with the DOE and the city. I also am eager to participate in this process and to assist Crystal in making the transition to chapter leader as seamless as possible.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Ginese

Supervisors of Nurses and Therapists Chapter Leader

## The impact of Janus

We need proud unionists more than ever now that the Janus v. AFSCME case is under consideration by the Supreme Court. Your contractual rights, benefits and retirement security all come from the union's influence. A weakened union would lead to loss of workers' rights, benefits and salary stagnation.

Defending our union means preserving our voice and protecting what we need to succeed in our professional lives. Check out some resources to help you gain a better understanding of all things Janus and how we as the Union can help spread the word about this threat.

[Learn more about Janus.](#)

[Learn how the UFT is taking action.](#)

[Watch a video about how Wisconsin unions weathered a similar storm.](#)

## Contractual raises

UFT members employed by the DOE will receive a wage increase of 3 percent, effective June 16, in accordance with the 2014 contract that the union negotiated with the DOE. Combined with a 2 percent wage increase on May 1 representing the fourth step of the phase in of the 8 percent retroactive rate increase arising from the 2009–11 period, UFT members will have received a total salary increase of 5 percent in May and June.

## Pension meetings at UFT borough offices

In response to members who told us how difficult it was to get in touch with a BERS representative, in March, the UFT arranged meetings with BERS representatives at all five UFT borough offices.

BERS staffers provided a short presentation and then individual consultations for all who signed up. Topics included how to calculate an estimate of our defined-benefit retirement allowance, an overview of the TDA program, the correct optional forms to use for retirement allowance and additional benefits available to BERS members.

Learn more about your pension benefits [on the UFT website](#).

## Functional chapter weekends



From left, PT Supervisor Catherine Cirillo, OT Supervisor and Chapter Leader-Elect Crystal Ogir, OT Supervisor Margaret Tumelty and Nurse Supervisor Mayra Washington at the UFT's fall Functional Chapter Weekend.

The UFT held two functional chapter training weekends this school year, one in autumn and one in spring. One of the highlights was a plenary at which UFT Political Director Paul Egan explained the U.S. Supreme Court case, *Janus v. AFSCME* and the ramifications of an anti-union decision.

Another highlight of the weekends was a workshop on UFT health benefits by Joseph Usatch, the assistant director of the UFT Welfare Fund. This workshop was so informative that we invited a Welfare Fund representative, Lee Hendelman, to our March chapter meeting. Mr. Hendelman was extremely receptive to our chapter and answered a plethora of questions.



From left, OT Supervisor Cecilia Dockery Smith, OT Supervisor and current Chapter Leader Mary Jo Ginese and Nurse



## Our state union's health care forum



From left, OT Supervisor and current Chapter Leader Mary Jo Ginese, and Nurse Supervisors Mayra Washington, Elizabeth Pereira and Esperanza Becerra at the Annual Professional Issues Forum on Health Care.

The NYSUT Health Care Professional Council advocates for the union's more than 15,000 health care professionals. These professionals are employed in public and private sector schools, hospitals, universities, visiting nurse associations, private practice and residential and day treatment facilities. The council provides health care members with an avenue to discuss concerns and challenges faced by the profession in the workplace and develop proposals to address legislative and/or regulatory issues.

The Council also sponsors the Annual Professional Issues Forum on Health Care. Three nurse supervisors, Mayra Washington, Elizabeth Pereira and Esperanza Becerra, attended the 16th annual Professional Issues Forum on April 21. The Council's chair, UFT Vice President Anne Goldman, welcomed outgoing Supervisors of Nurses and Therapists Chapter Leader Mary Jo Ginese, as a new member of the Council.

The forum helps to strengthen professional skills by providing relevant workshops, in addition to providing networking opportunities.

[Read more about the forum.](#)

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