

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

Local President's Workshop

This year's roundtable will offer an opportunity for local presidents to discuss various regional, state, and national issues critical to our locals and members.

Advocacy

Participants in this workshop will examine the various methods of advocacy as well as develop an enhanced understanding of the grievance/arbitration process. We will learn to distinguish between complaints and grievances, and explore the often necessary options that must be utilized. Case studies and a step-by-step approach to grievance handling serve to make this workshop very practical for the novice and veteran alike. *Please bring a copy of your current contract.*

Energize Your Local Through LAP Activities

NYSUT's Local Action Project (LAP) is a program designed to help locals become even more effective. It encourages locals to be visible and active in their communities on a continued basis. This workshop will try to show participants how to bring the four key components of LAP into their local. Those components are: increasing member participation, strengthening political action, expanding community outreach and coalition building, and improving communications. Participants will take away strategies for building community support for the union's work in educating the students in our care and ensuring the highest quality public education.

Furthering The Cause Of Social Justice

NYSUT's Mission Statement is as follows: "Through a representative democratic structure, New York State United Teachers improves the professional, economic and personal lives of our members and their families, strengthens the institutions in which they work, and *further the cause of social justice* through the trade union movement."

Participants will gain practical knowledge of social justice issues and identify opportunities to lead and involve members in the cause of social justice. Topics will include Fair Trade, The Global Economy, Child Labor, Living Wages, the Labor-Religion Coalition, and, most importantly, how the local labor movement is involved with these efforts. Be part of this lively discussion and spark new ideas about how, as union members and teachers, we can make our communities more economically just.

Health Insurance

As a labor leader, dealing with health insurance matters in the workplace continues to be a challenge. This workshop will provide an overview of how health insurance affects you and your members, and how health insurance benefits have evolved in the region, state, and nation. Given Excellus' announced intent to discontinue BC/BS Regionwide II and change the plan to "Classic Blue" in the Syracuse region, this issue, along with how to compare benefits, what to ask of employers, and what to expect from your members, among many other issues, will be addressed.

Contract Comparison

Participants will work in large-group and small-group settings reading and discussing contract language from the areas serviced by the Syracuse Regional Office. The presenters will provide contract language dealing with the usual "hot topics" (health insurance, salary, leaves, etc.) as well as more "creative" topics. Participants will be asked to work on writing sample language with the idea of avoiding vague, ambiguous and/or unenforceable contractual wording. *Please bring a copy of your current contract.*

Conflict Management/ Employment Law

What do you do when you can't resolve the conflict? This course will assist you in learning diverse approaches to conflict resolution and laws that may provide options for you in the absence of resolution such as: EAP, Human Rights, EEOC, ADA, sexual harassment, sexual discrimination, grievances and improper practices.

New Building Representative

This program is designed to help new Building Representatives get up to speed in this multi-faceted job. In addition to discussing whatever "hot topics" participants bring with them, this workshop will cover the basics of:

- ❖ Communicating with members
- ❖ Identifying and processing grievances
- ❖ Solving problems
- ❖ Supporting negotiations
- ❖ Handling employee disciplinary issues

Experienced Building Representative

This program is designed for the experienced Building Union Representative who has at previous Regional Conferences attended the new Building Union Representative training session. This program will deal with the following topics:

- ❖ To develop human relations skills to be an effective building union representative
- ❖ To distinguish between complaints and grievances
- ❖ To learn how to resolve problems
- ❖ To examine law and regulations concerning seniority
- ❖ To learn how to gather information and documentation to pursue investigation of problems in these areas
- ❖ To help in developing an ongoing new member program



If your disability, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, requires special accommodation or assistive device(s) in order for you to fully participate in this event, please contact the NYSUT Syracuse Regional Office at (315) 431-4040 to arrange special accommodations.

The enclosed Registration Form is to be completed and returned to the NYSUT Syracuse Regional Office with payment no later than **September 21, 2009.**

The cost is **\$240.00** per participant and each local may register up to six participants. Registration is on a “first come, first served” basis so **REGISTER EARLY!**

Cost includes:

- ❖ *Registration Fee*
- ❖ *Two Nights Lodging*
- ❖ *Six (6) Meals*
- ❖ *All Conference Materials*
- ❖ *Coffee Breaks*
- ❖ *Complimentary Reception Hour*
- ❖ *Gratuity On Package Weekend (not bar tabs, maid service, etc.)*

**PLEASE NOTE
SELECT ONE WORKSHOP
ONLY PER PARTICIPANT**



Syracuse Regional Office

FALL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



November 6-8, 2009

**THE OTESAGA RESORT
HOTEL**
Cooperstown, New York