

Union says: Do the right thing with fed stimulus aid

Now that Washington has delivered on a \$789 billion federal stimulus plan, it is up to the state Legislature and Gov. Paterson to ensure New York state's share of the money is spent wisely.

NYSUT is using its fax action center and lobbying visits to stress that point urgently.

The union can celebrate the successful lobbying and letter-writing campaign by union activists to secure the federal stimulus package. The NYSUT Web site at

www.nysut.org has complete coverage of the efforts by NYSUT officers, lobbyists and grassroots activists in Washington, D.C.

But now the focus has shifted to making sure the funds are used to stave off massive layoffs and devas-

tating cuts to education and health care at home.

Gov. David Paterson acknowledged the money must be used to restore school funding. But that doesn't mean our work is done.

Urge your members to contact state legislators and tell them we are relying on them to put the money to its intended use. Direct them to the

Legislative Action Center at

www.nysut.org, where they also will find a new letter asking for fair share tax reform.

Log on to the Leader Access site at www.nysut.org to get an up-to-date report on the estimated school aid in the stimulus package and district-by-district estimates of the Title I and IDEA funds that represent a portion of the funding.

longer pushing for a March 1 budget because the details of the federal stimulus package, which will impact this year's state budget as well as local school budgets, were delayed by extended negotiations in Congress. Get more on this from the Budget Advocacy Toolkit on the Leader Access Web site.

Find advice at

www.nysut.org

Need advice on how to respond when your employer seeks to reopen your collective bargaining agreement?

You'll find it at the password-protected Leader Access area of www.nysut.org. NYSUT's public efforts on the state budget are online at www.nysut.org/budget — but you need to use your exclusive Leader Access to find much more.

In addition to a Budget Advocacy Toolkit, it has links to local stories on layoff projections and advice on how to respond to some of those tough questions that will come up during this difficult budget year.

The site also tells you how to submit photos of your members from the national "Wear Blue" at work day earlier this month

Log on today

To get this exclusive access, click on Leader Access on the left side of the home page at www.nysut.org.

Plug in your membership identification number — found on your membership card — create a password and you will get to this material geared to your union work.



Florence McCue, Pat Puleo and Deb Collier of Yonkers FT walk to an appointment in Washington, D.C., during the "Wear Blue" advocacy day. They were among the NYSUT volunteer lobbyists who advocated successfully for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Only part of the solution

Even with the federal stimulus funds coming, a significant state budget gap looms. NYSUT is building support for an increase in the state income tax on the wealthiest to help increase revenues. As Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver said, "You cannot cut your way out of this crisis. It's too large." Gov. Paterson said he's no

Reminder to local treasurers

Transmittal forms 1099-MISC and 1096 are due to the Internal Revenue Service by March 2.

NYSUT locals must complete a Form 1099-MISC when stipends to a local union official totaled \$600 or more in calendar year 2008. The 1099-MISC must have been provided to the stipend recipient by Jan. 31. Details of this filing were provided in the Jan. 23 issue of the *NYSUT Leader*.

Copy A of Form 1099-MISC along with transmittal Form 1096 must be sent to the IRS no later than the end of February. Since the last day of February falls on a weekend this year, the returns do not have to be postmarked until Monday, March 2.

For more information on filing forms 1099-MISC and 1096, contact Helen Vickery in the NYSUT Accounting Department at 800-342-9810, ext. 6213, hwicker@nysutmail.org, or A.J. Nunziato, ext. 6014, annunziato@nysutmail.org.

Rallies to support fair share tax plan

As part of the ongoing campaign to restore a more just tax system in New York state, NYSUT is asking members to support these rallies:

Albany: 4:30 p.m. March 5 on the Capitol steps.

Buffalo: 4 p.m. March 6, True Bethel Church, 907 E. Ferry.

Rochester: 5 p.m. March 6, Liberty Pole, East and E. Main.

Syracuse: 4:30 p.m. March 5, location TBD.

Long Island: 4 p.m. March 6, Hilton Hotel, Route 110, Melville. (Leafletting at 3:30 p.m. outside hotel.)

Binghamton: Time and location TBD.

More details will be at www.nysut.org when available.



ION RICHARD FLEMING

From left: John Yrchik, Connecticut EA; David Borer, Massachusetts TA; NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi; and Robert Kuttner, editor of *American Prospect* and speaker at the NEA Northeast Region Economic Summit. The event was held at NYSUT headquarters earlier this month.

LRS opening in Nassau RO

NYSUT is seeking applicants to fill an opening for a Labor Relations Specialist in the Nassau Regional Office. Resumes should be sent to Mark Chaykin, NYSUT director of field operations, by 1 p.m. March 2. The address is 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110. Resumes can be sent electronically to mchaykin@nysutmail.org, or transmitted by fax to 518-213-6414 (Attn: Mark Chaykin).

Mailings scheduled

Members through age 59 who participate in the NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Term Life Insurance Plan will receive information about the endorsed Catastrophe Major Medical Plan sometime next month.

In addition, members who pay for their term life insurance by direct bill will receive an offer to upgrade their current term life insurance coverage amount by an additional \$100,000 of coverage. Members' questions should be directed to the term life insurance plan administrator, Marsh Affinity Group Services, 888-386-9788.

2009 Professional Issues Forum on Health Care

Local leaders will receive a postcard announcing NYSUT's Professional Issues Forum on Health Care to be held May 2 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany. Conference and registration materials will be available on www.nysut.org. Options include online registration or downloading forms for return by mail. The registration deadline is March 25. For information, contact Marianne Perry in Program Services at 800-342-9810, ext. 6297.

Union applauds lawsuit on toxic cleaners

NYSUT applauds a legal challenge to Procter & Gamble, Colgate-Palmolive and other household cleaner manufacturers. In a fight for transparency and accountability, health and environmental advocates took the companies to court.

A coalition of activists says the companies refuse to follow a state law requiring them to disclose the chemical ingredients in their products and the health risks they pose. Go to www.nysut.org for more information.

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