

Workshop Descriptions

Developing New Member Programs (6/27/17)

This workshop is designed to promote effective methods to engage new members in the union culture. A goal of this workshop will be to focus on educating our new members about the importance of the union movement and emphasize the importance of members assuming active roles in their union. Best practices for implementation of a program and a “buddy system” will be shared.

Frontline 1 & 2 (These workshops are part of the building rep “core curriculum”)

Frontline 1: This workshop is for building representatives and other union leaders who have had no formal training. The topics to be covered include the daily challenges of representing members (advocacy), basic contract administration and dealing with administrators. A strong emphasis will be placed on the duties of representatives to act as organizers through one-to-one conversations to promote the union and build member engagement and capacity. (7/11/17; 8/16/17; 9/26/17)

Frontline 2: This workshop should be taken only after a representative has completed Frontline 1. It will include more in-depth information and training. The topics include strategic planning, one-on-one skills, and the administration of the collective bargaining agreement. The Taylor Law will be discussed including its history, the rights of unions and members, and the structure of PERB with regard to dispute resolution. (7/11/17; 8/16/17; 10/19/17)

New Presidents Workshop (7/13/17)

Being a local president is an extremely difficult job and no one who becomes a local president is fully prepared for the job. This workshop will provide new presidents the opportunity to meet with staff and other new local leaders for an overview of the roles and responsibilities of a local president as well as the services and support provided by the Regional Office and NYSUT. We will examine challenges and issues of concern to new local leaders and engage in discussion to assist and support you in being an effective local president.

The Grievance Process (This workshop is part of the building rep “core curriculum”) (7/19/17; 8/8/17; 10/3/17)

The workshop will focus on the theory and practice of contract administration and grievance processing to ensure the contract is being enforced and union members’ rights are safeguarded. Topics addressed will include issues of merit, timeliness, politics, mechanics and resolution of a grievance. An emphasis will be placed on using grievances to build union capacity and explore how alternate methods to deal with contractual violations can be used as an organizing tool.

The Mechanics of Negotiations (This workshop is part of the building rep “core curriculum”) (7/19/17, 8/8/17; 11/15/17)

This workshop covers the process and mechanics of contract negotiations. Topics include the makeup of the negotiation team, proposal writing, ground rules, general negotiation practices, impasse and ratification procedures. Also to be discussed is the role the membership can play to support the negotiations process. The workshop is geared towards members that are new to negotiations or looking to further understand the process. Current trends of negotiations and settlement information will **not** be discussed during this workshop.

Managing Local Union Finances (7/20/17; 10/12/17)

Tending to the finances of a local is usually assumed to be primarily the responsibility of the union treasurer, but in reality, all officers and Executive Board members have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that members' dues dollars are handled properly, wisely, efficiently, and that the union's financial affairs are conducted in full compliance with all IRS, DOL and other government regulations. This workshop will acquaint you with the basic financial obligations of every local and explain how to avoid problems in the receipt, transmittal and expenditure of dues money.

The Building Rep as Organizer (This workshop is part of the building rep "core curriculum") (8/2/17; 10/25/17)

In these times, internal organizing is probably the most important job of a union representative. This workshop will help union leaders and representatives to increase and refine their member engagement skills in order to build the local's capacity and power. Included will be training on one-on-one conversations, data collection, leadership identification, and how to resolve workplace problems using organizing tactics.

Legal Issues (This workshop is part of the building rep "core curriculum") (8/17/17; 3/20/18)

This workshop will explore current legal issues that impact local unions and their members. Tenure laws, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), 913 exams and 3020-a procedures, Section 75 hearings, free speech, Supreme Court cases, labor laws and other pertinent laws will be discussed. The importance of promoting political actions by the membership to preserve, support, and improve laws and regulations will also be discussed.

Union History (8/17/17; 4/19/18)

This workshop explores the rise and fall and rise again of the U.S. Labor movement in historical context. Participants will be invited to explore significant historical events that helped to promote the growth of the labor movement (with an emphasis on NYSUT's history) as well as events that have contributed to its decline. We will then explore plausible solutions to the American labor crisis. This workshop is designed to provide members with an historical perspective of the labor movement's major accomplishments, such as legislation governing employee rights in the workplace and employment advantages gained through union solidarity.

TRS Workshop (8/22/17)

In an age when most Americans are increasingly threatened by retirement insecurity, understanding your rights and entitlements as a TRS member is essential to ensuring a financially secure and worry-free retirement. This workshop is designed to help TRS members navigate the increasing complex world of the TRS. What do you need to know? What do you need to ask? What do you need to do and when? How secure is the TRS and what forces are threatening the retirement security of TRS members?

Using Member Data (10/11/17)

One of the main reasons to have one-on-one conversations is to collect information about your members. Having information about members makes it possible to gear the union’s activities to the needs and interests of members. This workshop will look at what data should be collected and explore ways to utilize that data to identify potential leaders, further engage members and help plan future actions of the local.

ERS Workshop (10/26/17)

In an age when most Americans are increasingly threatened by retirement insecurity, understanding your rights and entitlements as an ERS member is essential to ensuring a financially secure and worry-free retirement. This workshop is designed to help ERS members navigate the increasing complex world of the ERS. What do you need to know? What do you need to ask? What do you need to do and when? How secure is the ERS and what forces are threatening the retirement security of ERS members?

Presidents’ Roundtable (11/14/17) (4/17/18)

This meeting provides an opportunity for local presidents to exchange views, discuss problems, share ideas and discuss the direction of our union. As always, the only agenda items are the topics local presidents want to talk about.

Teacher Negotiations (12/5/17)

This workshop will provide local leaders and negotiating team members with information about recent settlement trends and data for Nassau County teacher locals. It will also explore the future of negotiations in the tax cap era.

SRP Negotiations (12/6/17)

This workshop will provide local leaders and negotiating team members with information about recent settlement trends and data for Nassau County SRP locals. It will also explore the future of negotiations in the tax cap era.

School Board Elections & Budget Votes (1/10/18)

In a time when the tax cap and constant attempts to infringe upon educators’ professional, legal and contractual rights make our members’ lives more difficult, the ability to influence the outcomes of school board elections and school budget votes has become an increasingly important weapon in every successful local’s arsenal. This workshop focuses on how locals can tap into the impressive array of technologies and skills NYSUT has acquired to maximize our members’ political clout.

State of the State (3/7/18)

The Executive, Senate and Assembly budgets are being debated in Albany. With the tightening of education funding, the fight to adequately finance public schools is getting harder. Our collective efforts as a union can help shape the direction of education policy and help push back against the anti-public education agenda of the corporate charter lobby and privatizers. Be part of the discussion and part of the solution as we consider our next moves.

Workplace Health & Safety (3/14/18)

Workplace health and safety is everybody's business! Maintaining a healthy and safe work environment for our members requires constant vigilance and effort. This workshop focuses on awareness of the major health and safety threats to workers and the most effective strategies for addressing workplace health and safety problems.

Civil Service (5/1/18)

This workshop will explore the Civil Service regulations which govern such issues as classifications, hiring, layoffs and disciplinary procedures.

SRP Dinner and Workshop (5/8/18)

SRP leaders will gather for drinks, dinner and conversation about issues of importance and concern to NYSUT's nearly 100,000 SRP members.

Agency Fee: Then & Now (5/31/18)

The loss of Agency Fee does not need to be a death sentence; it is actually ripe with opportunities. Unions were successful before Agency Fee was mandated by law. In many ways, unions were stronger, had more member engagement and greater capacity before agency fee. This workshop will look at actions unions used to successfully engage their members when they had to collect dues directly from members. A focus will be placed on the different actions unions used in the past as compared to our current reality. The future legal challenges to unions' ability to collect dues from their members will also be discussed.

Tenure Workshop (6/6/18)

This workshop is designed to build awareness for newly tenured teachers. The purpose will be to explore the rights provided by tenure as well as the limitations of tenure rights. Recent developments regarding the tenure process will be addressed. The workshop will also explore protected rights as union member, expectations of membership and other relevant education laws.

Pre-Retirement Workshop (Dates TBD)

Preparing for retirement is a complex process that requires careful planning. In this workshop, NYSUT Member Benefits experts will inform members about the things they need to know, the things they need to do and the things they need to watch out for in preparing to launch a successful, secure and happy retirement.