

Michelle Battaglia:

I have worked in Schenectady City School District for 15 years and actively participate on many committees and keep involved in community events and activities. I currently am the intervention specialist at Van Corlaer but over the years I have taught many different grade levels. I have been actively involved in SFT for many years as a building director and am currently in my second term as an elementary vice president. Last year, I was a delegate for the first time and I am looking forward to attending the NYSUT RA again to broaden my knowledge of NYSUT's constitution and policies and to keep current with issues impacting our members.

Katie Carhart:

I have been a special education teacher in the district for 15 years, 8 at Central Park and 7 at the high school as a 10th grade co-teacher. I have been a building director for 5 years and would like to continue in that position to keep the members I have been assigned to abreast of all important issues, and make sure to check in with them regularly. If able to attend the RA, I would bring back to the members any pertinent information, and make sure to bring to the building director's meeting any new information that could assist the union in becoming a stronger, more effective entity.

Lisa Fagan:

I'm a special education teacher at Central Park Middle School. I attended the RA for the past two years, as well as the AFT conference this summer. I have been involved with the union since I moved here from Chicago, where I was also active with the Chicago Teacher's Union. This is my third year as a building director and my second year as the Social and PR co-chair (my co-chair is Molly Schaefer). I feel that attending the RA helps me to improve my role as PR and Social co-chair. I look forward to helping the union stay strong and active in our community. I really hope that you will allow me to attend the RA this year.

Don Guernsey:

I have been teaching math at SHS for 17 years and have been a Building Director for about the last 9 years. Over those years there have been many changes in our schools and our profession. My goal is to continue to assist our teachers and paraprofessionals to navigate those changes and to assist them in standing up for their rights. In order to achieve this goal, I'd like to represent you at the next NYSUT RA.

Corinna Heggen, HS VP:

I would love to represent SFT 803 at the RA this year. I always learn a great deal when I am given the chance to attend and I do my best to bring information back for members. The opportunity to attend is a great honor and I take that position seriously. Attending the RA furthers my understanding of the role of our Union and allows me to learn about different ways to advocate and support membership. I value this experience and would like the opportunity to attend. Thank you.

Brian Melanson:

I have worked for the district for 19 years and have been the PE teacher at Zoller for the last 16. In addition to teaching, I am the boys' varsity swimming and diving coach. I have also been involved in union as the health insurance chair and the negotiations chair for the last four years. Last year I was honored to be voted as a delegate for the RA and I hope to continue with this privilege this year.

Rosemary Panetta:

I am a paraprofessional and building director at MLK. I have been employed by the SCSD for the last 17 years. During this time I had an active role with negotiations. I have been fortunate to attend many conferences and learned so much about our Union. I would be honored to represent the paras at this upcoming RA conference in NYC. It would be a great experience to actually take part in the policy making of our Union. I am asking for your vote to be your voice.

Molly Schaefer:

My name is Molly Schaefer and I teach Social Inquiry at Mont Pleasant Middle School. I have been a building director for three years. I have previously attended both the RA and the AFT conferences in the past couple of years. I am also the Social and PR chair of the SFT with Lisa Fagan. I would love to be able to represent our unit at the RA this year and continue to stand up for our membership.

Mike Silvestri:

I am honored to be nominated as a RA Delegate again. I take my attendance at the RA and the contiguous meetings very seriously. This is why I have not just attended, but have spoken and presented at them. At the RAs I am also able to network with other locals to the benefit of SFT Members. It was through these conversations that we were able to develop ideas for our new APPR plan. As a Delegate I will also be able to develop plans to stop a Constitutional Convention that could eliminate our pensions, bargaining rights and school funding.

Amy Snyder:

I have been an English teacher in the district for 18 years, 5 at Mont Pleasant and 13 at the high school as a 10th teacher. I have been a building director for 2 years and would like to continue in that position to keep the members I have been assigned to abreast of all important issues, and make sure to check in with them regularly. If able to attend the RA, I would bring back to the members any pertinent information, and make sure to bring to the building director's meeting any new information that could assist the union in becoming a stronger, more effective entity.

Bobbi Teta:

I have been employed in the Schenectady School District as an attendance paraprofessional at SCLA for 22 years. I have been an SFT Building Director for 12 years and have attended annual seminars and assemblies along with the RA Convention in Washington, DC, sponsored by NYSUT in the past. I feel these experiences have given me a better understanding of what we are fighting for and what our Union can do for us. I would like to continue in assisting our Union in becoming stronger, and staying effective and informative by representing you at our next NYSUT RA Convention. I believe it is important that the para's have a presence at these important events, and would like to take this opportunity to ask you for your vote. Thank You.

Karen Wojcik-Hess:

I'm Karen Wojcik-Hess. I'm a SFT retiree and have stayed active in children and senior issues for the past 14 years. Two years ago I accepted the position of president of the Capital District CHAPTER Of NYS Alliance for Americans. I see a rocky road ahead for seniors, for retirees and attending the RA helps me stay connected to the people and issues of AFT & NYSUT!
Your vote today will support your retirees!

Patti Zentko:

I am delighted to be running as a delegate to NYSUT's Annual Representative Assembly (RA). As SFT Paraprofessional Chair, it is my goal for paraprofessionals to have a presence at important events such as the RA. I am proud to be part of the SFT, and would like to represent our organization and would like to take this opportunity to ask you for your vote. Thank you.