FALL 2022

VALLEY STREAM TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

Local 1633-In Solidarity

SOCIAL GOOD TIME

VSTA LEADERSHIP

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Vice President
Membership
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Vice President
Communications
Ellyn Fitzgerald
Vice President
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Ronald Rini
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Maureen Byrnes
Newsletter Co-Editor
Elizabeth Escobar
Newsletter Co-Editor

This year's VSTA Fall Social took place at Kasey's Rooftop 32 on Friday October 14th, 2022. There were over 125 members in attendance with new members once again receiving a free ticket to the event. Members enjoyed the beautiful weather as well as the band, T Minus Ten. There were many prize winners on this beautiful day. The VSTA Social is always a great way for the Valley Stream Districts to come together. Thank you to all who attended.

From the President

Negotiations to bargain a successor agreement for the Teacher Unit will begin on December 1, 2022. Although that is the official first meeting between all parties, the Negotiations Committee has been working diligently for the past year to prepare. The survey completed last winter was a starting point to capture the concerns of members. Members of the committee attended a “Trends in Negotiation” workshop to gain knowledge of other districts' settlements and the current climate for negotiations. The Unit Leaders from all buildings have shared issues and individual members have also reached out to share specific concerns.

The past few months have been devoted to working with the Nassau Regional Office of NYSUT to make sure our proposals reflect the needs of our membership and that negotiations will start and continue in a timely manner.

We look forward to sharing updates as they unfold!

2022 New Teacher Luncheon

This year the VSTA hosted their annual new teacher luncheons on August 23rd for the elementary districts and August 25th for the high school district. During this time, the VSTA welcomed over 65 new teachers and talked about the benefits of union membership and the welfare fund. President Noele Villa, Vice Presidents John Reece, Ginger Calderaro and Ellyn Fitzgerald led the new teacher luncheons and were able to give the new members an overview of the VSTA structure and their contract. The new members were then given the names of their Unit Leaders in each of their buildings, VSTA red t-shirts, and NYSUT Next Generation material. Welcome to all new members!

President's Coffee Hour

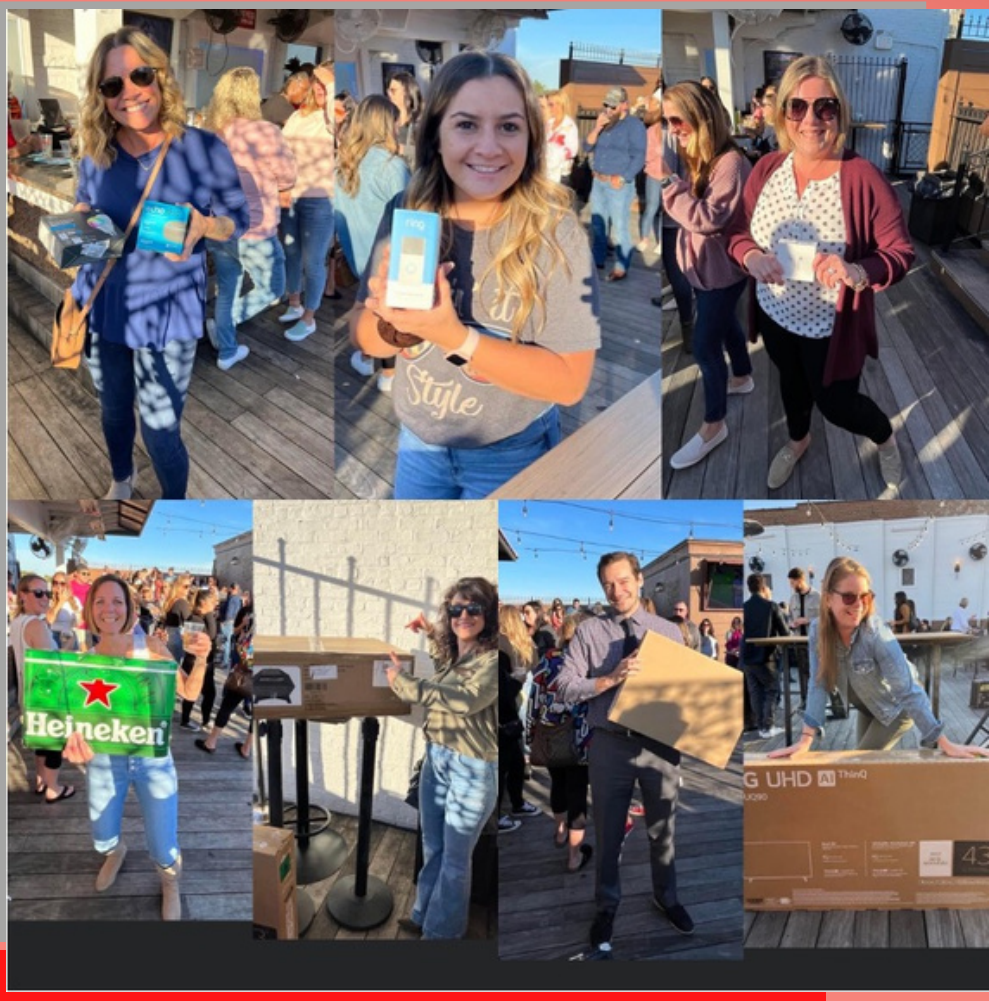
This year President Noele Villa, as well as the Vice Presidents, John Reece, Ginger Calderaro and Ellyn Fitzgerald, began holding President's Coffee Hours at the VSTA office where they were available to answer member questions. The first coffee hour was held in September, and a second coffee hour was held in October. These President Coffee Hours are an opportunity for members to come ask questions specific to their situation or to have a conversation about their concerns. Some items that were discussed were questions concerning salary, payroll, leaves available to members and upcoming contract negotiations Future Coffee Hours will be scheduled for the Spring. We hope to see you at our next meetings. A special thanks to VSTA Member and Executive Council Representative, Debra Schneider, for helping with these events.

Retirement Seminar January 24, 2023

VSTA VOICES

Congratulations to Dr. Kathleen Murray on the completion of her doctoral program!

Have a shout out you want added to the newsletter? Email vstanews@gmail.com to be included in future issues.



Life is complicated. NYSUT Member Benefits can help.

PEER SUPPORT LINE

The Peer Support Line is a new service available through NYSUT Member Benefits that's offered at no cost to all NYSUT members and their families.

MEMBER BENEFITS
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The Peer Support Line can help with:

- Finding mental health services or support groups
- Answering questions about Medicare and Medicaid
- Managing work-related stress
- Providing support to new members
- Sourcing elder care or caregiving services
- Assisting with marital, relationship or child rearing concerns
- Reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness

The Peer Support Line is a partnership between NYSUT Member Benefits and Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care.

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Nov/Dec 2022