

# NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

May 17, 2019

## No More Progressive Union Than the NTU...



John M. Abeigon

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Colleagues,

This week's Albert Shanker Awards Dinner was a success. You'll read more about it and see photos in upcoming issues of NTU Update and on our website. Being able to honor our members and provide scholarships is very gratifying. But one of the most moving moments for me was awarding a dear friend the NTU Legacy Award.

I often say that there is no more progressive teachers union in the world than the NTU, and I mean it. Check this out. After working as a Chemist, Martha Nolley began her teaching career at Newark's West Side High School in 1969. That spring, she passed the National Teachers' Exam in Physics and Chemistry and landed a teaching job at We-equahic High School, where she taught Chemistry and other science courses for the next 28 years.

In addition to writing the Chemistry Curriculum guide for the City of Newark, Martha served on the NTU's Building Committee for over 20 years and an NTU Vice President from 1995 to 1997.

While this country is still arguing and protesting over such important issues facing modern women such as sexism and gender bias and pay equity, Martha Nolley was supported by a union that made sure she was paid the same as a male science teacher— 1969 was 50 years ago, people. Amazing.

**In Solidarity,**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John".

**John M. Abeigon**  
**President/Director of Organization**  
**Newark Teachers Union Local 481, AFT, AFL-CIO**



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## Calling ALL NTU MEMBERS!!

Are you moving grade levels or starting fresh in a new content area?

Is it your first time out of the classroom? Resource Teacher? ESL or an Activity Teacher?

Come on down to the NTU, as we will be hosting our Annual Teacher Supply Swap...

Bring in any teaching supplies or items

that you will no longer need and swap with fellow members and colleagues. Don't go out and spend all your money buying new supplies.....swap supplies instead!!

If you are interested in participating, please email Cristina Balboa [yesntu@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:yesntu@newarkteachersunion.com) and let us know what grade level you are and what supplies you would like to donate. We will begin taking donations from May 28th, and the swap will run until the end of the school year!

We will keep you posted and inform our members of what grade level materials will be available to you.

**SAVE THE DATE**

- **Tuesday, May 21, 2019, 5:30 PM — NPS Business Meeting, 765 Broad Street**
- **Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 3:45 PM - NTU Building Rep Meeting, 1019 Broad Street**
- **Monday, May 27—School Closed Memorial Day**
- **Tuesday, June 4—School Closed, Eid-al Fitr**

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## Non-Tenure Notice

By May 15, you should receive either a non-reoffering letter or a contract in the mail for the 2019-2020 school year from the Newark Public Schools.

### IF YOU RECEIVE A NON-REOFFERING LETTER:

If you are a non-tenured teacher who received a letter of non-reoffering, you need to reach out to the Newark Teachers Union immediately!

#### 1. **IF YOU HAVE NOT REQUESTED A HEARING ALREADY**

Click this link [CAUSE/HEARING REQUEST](#) to Request the Causes for non-reoffering and your Donaldson Hearing

- Print the letter and send it in certified/return receipt requested and save your receipt
- You have **TEN DAYS** from receipt/notification of non-reoffering to send this letter (make sure you CC the appropriate people as indicated)

#### 2. **AFTER YOU SUBMIT YOUR CAUSE/HEARING REQUEST**

Click and print this [DONALDSON CHECKLIST](#) and complete it as soon as possible

You will hear from us in the coming weeks for an important meeting that you must attend in preparation for your hearing. You will be required to bring your completed checklist and the materials.

### IF YOU RECEIVED A CONTRACT:

Fill out your contract and send it back to the district accepting employment for next year!

### IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED A NON-REOFFERING LETTER OR CONTRACT BY MAY 15:

If you don't receive a non-reoffering or a contract for 2019-2020 school year BY MAY 15, [you should immediately follow the directions on the enclosed form.](#)

Please email [mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com) or call the NTU (973) 643-8430 with any and all questions you may have in regards to the 2019-2020 school year.

# Labor speaks out against NJ Pension “Schemes”

## Statement from AFTNJ President Donna M. Chiera Donna M. Chiera on the ‘Path To Progress’

“While uncertain economic times means elected leadership must make difficult decisions, New Jersey residents are already suffering at least partly because of President Trump’s elimination of the State and Local Taxes deduction as punishment for voting against him and his party.



“If New Jersey’s elected leadership believes the appropriate response is to further penalize those of us who work in the public sector—including dedicated teachers, caring nurses and courageous first responders—in order to give tax breaks to millionaires, they are governing in a very irresponsible manner and leading us in the wrong direction.

“AFT New Jersey stands opposed to weakening the pension system with a hybrid approach and further undermining collective bargaining by legislating increased health insurance costs. These diminutions of well-deserved benefits will discourage young adults from seeking employment in public sector positions and further fuel shortages in those entering the teaching and nursing profes-

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## NJ AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech Opposed To Hybrid Pension Plan (NJ AFL-CIO)

In response to today’s announcement that legislation will be introduced to end defined benefit pensions for new hires and current employees with less than five years of service by creating a “hybrid” pension, New Jersey State AFL-CIO President Charles Wowkanech released the following statement:



“Our pension funds are at risk for one reason and one reason only; 25 years of State Government’s failure to pay their annual required contribution.

In fact, New Jersey has underfunded its pension worse than any state in the nation,” Wowkanech said. “Look no further than New Jersey’s pension plans funded by local government (such as PFRS) and you will see that when all parties actually pay their fair share, the fund is healthy.”

According to a November 2018 report by S&P Global, one of the top Wall Street credit-rating firms, New Jersey is the biggest pension cheat in the nation, ranking its funding ratio as second-to-last among all U.S. states and [also placing New Jersey dead last for funding](#) even the bare minimum of its pension costs.

“Over the past ten years, multiple reforms have been signed into law that reduced the amount of workers’ pensions, removed the cost of living adjustments for workers, increase the retirement age and significantly increase worker contributions. This was done in exchange for a commitment from the Legislature and various Governors to fund their fair share. Time and time again, workers have sacrificed while the Legislature has walked away from its commitment,” Wowkanech added.

“Further, it is a misconception that public workers have ‘gold plated’ pensions. In fact, the typical state or local government worker in PERS, after 30 years of service, receives a \$31,600 annual pension.”

Research conducted as recently as December 2017 found that New Jersey’s largest two state funds (for state workers and for teachers) rank in the bottom 10 for overall pension benefit generosity, at [60th and 61st out of 69 largest pension plans in the nation](#).

“The Legislature and Administration must continue to honor the phase-in schedule and ultimately pay the full contribution as required by law. [Data from the New Jersey Division of Investments shows we are turning the corner and are starting to make real progress](#).

This problem was created over 25 years of underfunding and it requires a long term commitment from our elected officials to stay the course,” Wowkanech said. “The New Jersey State AFL-CIO urges Governor Murphy and Legislative leaders to meet with the leadership of our public employee unions to discuss the chronic pension underfunding and to not further erode the retirement security that workers have earned.”

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## NTUNIVERSITY

We are looking for Workshops, Presentations, Activities to be presented by our members, for our members. Please reach out to Cristina Balboa at [yesntu@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:yesntu@newarkteachersunion.com) if you are interested!

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## MEMBER SERVICES

NTU Members should never hesitate to communicate with us by phone, email, etc regarding any of the issues we handle at the Newark Teachers Union.

- Supplemental Fringe Benefits
- Planning for Retirement
- Pension & Buy Back Issues
- ER+D Staff Development
- AFT Membership Benefits
- FMLA and other leaves of absence
- Assistance with Evaluations and Observations
- Disciplinary Hearings
- Labor Relations & Payroll
- Legal Representation
- Workers Comp
- Tuition Reimbursement

Call 973-643-8430 or visit our website <http://newark.nj.aft.org/> or email [mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com](mailto:mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com) to address these or any other concerns you may have.

Don't forget to follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/NewarkTeachersUnion481/>) and Instagram ([https://www.instagram.com/newark\\_teachers\\_union/?hl=en](https://www.instagram.com/newark_teachers_union/?hl=en))





# NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

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