

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION UPDATE

March 5, 2021



Colleagues,

[Make sure you fill out the district's Informal Survey of NTU Staff!](#) Like I always say "USE YOUR WORDS!" Identify your hardships and be as specific as possible. If your children are doing remote learning on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but you are willing to do in-person teaching on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, then say it! This comment section goes a long way to dictating what the rest of the school year will look like.

John M. Abeigon
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We sent out a [checklist of items to look for in your building walkthroughs](#) to the Building Reps and Executive Board. By now everyone should be familiar with "student engagement," the district spends an inordinate amount of time looking for it. What I'm looking for now is member and staff engagement. Bldg Rep's and E Brd members should not just be sharing the facilities return list with staff but having meetings around it; full membership meetings or smaller specific group meetings. Administrators should be engaging staff (full faculty or grade specific), and having meetings to discuss scheduling as the survey answers start coming in. Engagement people, it's not just for students.

Vaccination Update

For NBOE staff who are interested in getting COVID vaccine, there should be some great news coming out in the next few weeks. More info to come as soon as we can share it. Meanwhile, here are some places to try:

- [NJ Vaccine Registration](#)
- [Essex County Vaccine Registration](#)
- [City of Newark Vaccine Registration](#)
- [CVS Vaccine Registration](#)

If you have already gotten your vaccine, check out page 2 of this update to get a NTU "I Got Mine" Button.

In Solidarity,

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

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2021 NTU Scholarships and Hall of Fame Inductees

The NTU Education Foundation is proud to announce its 2021 Albert Shanker Scholarship Awards and Hall of Fame Induction.

In 2019, twenty students received academic scholarships, including two Presidential Awards in the amount of \$2,500.00, four Executive Awards in the amount of \$1,750.00 and the rest in the amount of \$1,000.00.

This year, we will be inducting Steve Adubato into the NTU 2021 Hall of Fame, and Senator Ronald Rice will be receiving our NTU Legacy Award. Both men have a long history with the Newark Teachers Union and the city of Newark.

We are relying on your continued support and good will to continue this worthy endeavor. More information will be coming in the next few weeks on how you can support our students and your fellow staff. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the NTU Office at (973) 643-8430 or e-mail ntuscholarshipawards@gmail.com.

[Click here for Scholarship Application!](#)



Did you get your vaccine?

In our efforts to both promote the vaccine and instill confidence in our return to in-person instruction (for our visual learners), the NTU has produced buttons for NTU members who have gotten their vaccines! Send an email with your name, address, and proof that you are vaccinated (vaccine card or email confirmation) to sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com, and we will get one out to you!

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Membership Meeting Reminders

Some quick links to some items that came up at this week's NTU Membership Meeting!

OBSERVATIONS/REBUTTALS are beginning. Yes, we will absolutely be sending out surveys later on in the cycle to see how the modified framework is being implemented. HOWEVER...for EVERY POINT YOU DISAGREE with or needs clarity you HAVE to write a rebuttal. You must also note ANY and ALL attendance of students, technical difficulties, compliance issues, etc. HERE is a link to our [REBUTTAL GUIDANCE](#). Remember, for observations, rebuttals go to your ADMIN via email and to your clerk to be placed in your file in school as well.

MANDATES— If you cannot complete a task DURING the work day, you have to submit a [RSVP TO MANDATES](#) form. If you are being forced to finish work OUTSIDE of your work day, submit time sheets!

EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM- HealthCare Assistance with Member Support (HCAMS) provides no-cost, confidential services to individuals with substance abuse and other behavioral health problems that may be affecting their work, health and/or personal lives.

CREDIT UNION— The Newark Board of Education Employees Credit Union offers numerous financial services for our members including savings and checking accounts, credit cards, home and auto mobile loans.

UNION PLUS— Union members receive discounts on everything from car rentals to hotels to pet insurance. See Page 5 of this update for more information.



If you had the chance to directly help nearly 300 million Americans—including teachers and school staff; nurses, doctors and other healthcare workers; essential workers who are keeping our society functional; and 85 million kids—I'm sure your first question would be “when do I start?”

Well, you can, and the answer is: Right now. Right now you can click this link and call your senators today to make sure they vote for the lifesaving and livelihood-saving American Rescue Plan.

[Click here or dial 1-888-879-2059 to call call your senators and ask them to vote YES on the American Rescue Plan this week.](#)

The pandemic has wreaked havoc with every area of our lives, and some people have paid with their lives. We have no more time for politics or delay; everyone knows we need to defeat this virus, get emergency aid to people who are suffering and start building the bridge to recovery.

And recovery means that everyone has access to vaccines. That jobs are saved or created. That schools are safe for all and kids can get back in the classroom.

President Joe Biden gets it. Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the House get it. Fortune 500 CEOs, leading economists, Republican and Democratic governors and mayors get it. And most importantly, the American people get it. More than 75 percent of voters—including 60 percent of Republicans—support the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan because they know our country needs a major COVID-19 aid and stimulus package to give our economy a shot in the arm before it's too late.

“The biggest risk is not going too big ... it's if we go too small,” said Biden about the American Rescue Plan. Even Republican Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt praised the plan, saying it “will give us the opportunity to fully restore ... all the city services our residents expect.”

The Senate is now poised to vote on the American Rescue Plan, which would provide immediate aid to protect the jobs of frontline workers like nurses and EMTs; help teachers, school staff and administrators get our schools reopened safely and quickly; help those hit hardest by the pandemic feed their families, pay their bills and keep a roof over their heads; and, critically, ramp up testing and vaccine production and distribution.

[You can help make this happen. Right now, your senators need to hear from you so they know this vote matters. Click here or dial 1-888-879-2059 to call and demand your senators vote YES on the American Rescue Plan.](#)

We cannot afford to lose a single vote in the Senate. It's time to double down and make sure the American Rescue Plan lands on Biden's desk for his signature before COVID-19 relief benefits start to expire on March 14.

Together, we can do this and help our families and our communities recover from the coronavirus and economic crises so that we all have the chance to thrive.

In unity,
Randi Weingarten
AFT president

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Member Benefits

Through the [AFT Plus/Union Plus program](#), Union members receive discounts on everything from car rentals to hotels to pet insurance. This is a terrific benefit that more people need to utilize. Just some examples:

- **[Financial products](#)** We offer union members and their families a wide array of financial products for each step of your financial life including — the [Union Plus Credit Card](#), [prepaid card](#) and [personal loan](#) programs.
- **[Home and auto programs](#)** We offer exclusive union member savings and discounts for all your your home and auto needs, such as [auto buying](#) and [mortgage](#).
- **[Insurance products](#)** Our insurance products include plans from brands you know and trust and feature [home](#), [auto](#), [retiree health](#), [life](#) and even [pet insurance](#).
- **[Health plans](#)** Our health plans include union member discounts on [dental](#), [vision](#), [hearing](#) and even [alternative healthcare](#).
- **[Education](#)** Our education programs help you avoid student debt and earn your degree for free when you enroll in our [Free College](#) and [Bachelor's Degree](#) programs. If you're already enrolled, apply for our [Union Plus Scholarship](#) to help get you to the finish line.
- **[Shopping and Discounts](#)** Save one everyday expenses like your [monthly wireless phone bill with AT&T](#), [every day purchases](#), or even going to the [movies](#).
- **[Travel benefits](#)** Our travel benefits are here to make travel cheaper with exclusive discounts on [car rental](#), [vacation tours](#) and even [hotels](#) and [attractions](#).
- **[Hardship Help](#)** Above all other benefits, we're most proud of our hardship help benefits. Hardship Help benefits are designed to help union members when they've fallen on hard times, such as when their union goes on [strike](#), they get [laid off](#), or even [disabled](#).



Working hard for
union families
since 1986

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March is Social Workers Month!

Social Work Month in March is a time to celebrate the great profession of social work.

The theme for Social Work Month 2021 is **Social Workers Are Essential**.



Social workers are essential to community well-being. As practitioners, social workers are trained to help people address personal and systemic barriers to optimal living. They are employed to effect positive change with individuals, families, groups and entire communities.

During Social Work Month take time to learn more about the many positive contributions of the profession, and use the items in our toolkit to celebrate all the social workers you know. For more information, visit <https://www.socialworkers.org> or email media@socialworkers.org.

SAVE THE DATE

- Wednesday March 10—Staff Development Day
- Tuesday, March 23—NTU Executive Board Meeting—3:30 PM
- Tuesday, March 23—Newark Board of Education Business Meeting—6:00 PM
- Wednesday, March 24—NTU Building Rep Meeting—3:30 PM
- Thursday, March 25—Newark Board of Education Business Meeting—6:00 PM

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AFT Announces 2021 Share My Lesson Virtual Conference

March 23—25



Welcome to Share My Lesson's 2021 Virtual Conference! This is our ninth annual virtual conference; we've been running virtual conference events in our PJs, yoga pants, and work mullets (business attire on the top and PJs on the bottom) long before it was cool. We've worked hard with our Share My Lesson partners and presenters to make this year even better than the last, with even more ways to access the free, high-quality professional development that educators come to expect when they visit Share My Lesson.

Last year, our virtual conference came at just the right time as nearly 70,000 pre K-12 teachers, school staff and parents joined us looking for support on how best to navigate online learning as the COVID-19 pandemic forced lockdowns around the world. This year, we have a remarkable lineup of webinars to support your upcoming needs, including how best to reopen schools safely, support social and emotional recovery and learning recovery, strengthen a foundation of anti-bias education, increase civic engagement and incorporate trauma-sensitive practices.

<https://sharemylesson.com/vc2021>

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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.

- Planning for Retirement
- Pension & Buy Back Issues
- ER+D Staff Development
- Health and Supplemental Benefits
- 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

Under the current situation, it is vital to stay informed! If you have changed your address, phone number, or location, please reach out to

sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com to let us know. Also, if you don't get our weekly updates, send an email to mmaillaro@newarkteachersunion.com to make sure you are on our mailing list.

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

NTU Education Resource Center

Unfortunately, the NTU's Education Resource Center will not be available this school year. There was no way to reopen following CDC Guidelines. We will send out updates if and when the situation changes.

NEWARK TEACHERS UNION

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