
NEWARK TEACHERS UNION



WEEKLY UPDATE

February 10, 2023



LOCAL 481
AFT/AFL-CIO

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As a new member of the American Federation of Teachers' Program & Policy Council, I spent two days in Washington D.C. last week listening to teachers and support staff from throughout the country describe their working conditions and the challenges they are facing inside the classroom and in their communities. Many of their issues were universal: teacher shortages, coverage burnout, failed recruitment and retention strategies. Too large a number of them were outright scary. More on that in next week's Update.

I couldn't get on the train back to Newark fast enough. There are states out there that have no pension plans for their teachers and support staff. Some have no tenure laws, and the average teacher's salary is \$35,000 a year. I was too embarrassed to mention that that is what our full time teachers' aides make, with health benefits.

Heaven forbid they should see a copy of our redesigned NTU Weekly Update. It's packed with health and wellness benefits some teachers across this country are still fighting to receive, both in their contracts and as employee and membership advantages.

It's with mixed emotions that in this issue we proudly share two such benefits and membership programs. [How cool is Aetna™ LifeMart® Member Discount Program?](#) Use your Aetna LogIn to start saving on things we use every day such as: groceries, child and senior care, travel. If I had known about this benefit last week I could have saved on my Amtrak tickets to D.C.

Also in this issue, we introduce AFT's newest members only trauma counseling program, [Trauma Coverage®](#).

These AFT-paid trauma counseling sessions with highly trained therapists are completely private and set up to take advantage of the latest communication technologies—phone, text, video and even artificial intelligence. They are free and available to all active working members, including those on leave status.

The broad list of covered injuries is both work-related and beyond, including: <https://www.aft.org/benefits/trauma>

IN SOLIDARITY,

JOHN M. ABEIGON
PRESIDENT/DIRECTOR OF ORGANIZATION
NEWARK TEACHERS UNION LOCAL 481, AFT, AFL-CIO
JABEIGON@NEWARKTEACHERSUNION.COM

TRENDING THIS WEEK :

- [Secretary Treasurer Report pg. 3.](#)
- [Kudos/Honoring Staff Members pg. 4-5](#)
- [Union Plus – Hardship Help pg. 6-7](#)
- [Trauma Counseling Program pg. 8](#)
- [Aetna Lifemart pg. 9](#)
- [COVID Tests/Vaccines pg. 10-11](#)
- [NTU Ed Resource Center/Upcoming Events pg. 12](#)

<http://newark.nj.aft.org/>

From the Desk of the Secretary-Treasurer



Our return from lockdowns to the classrooms should have been JOYOUS...It should have felt like "coming home." The superintendent said we were going to focus on Social-Emotional Learning, for our students and staff, alike. What went wrong? All we have had shoved in our faces is learning loss, testing, bulletin boards, feedback, rubrics, new curriculum, new textbooks, new directors, more work, more work, more work.

The veterans in this district recall the days of how Cami Anderson attempted to close down schools and how NTU members rallied and fought back hard, and WON. These days we are often too buried in overwhelming workloads, administrative bullying, catching up from missed preps, overloaded classes to consider much else. The veterans know what it means to build up the steam and the momentum needed to create change.

The NTU will continue laying the groundwork for great changes in Newark that will rely on the experience of the Veterans and the energy of those just starting their careers alike. We are building a movement that will drive us toward a signed contract that will reimagine what it means to teach in Newark.

So get on board and join the movement by **showing up on February 25th at our Second Contract Kick Off Meeting.**

I may not be happy about the current state of affairs in Newark, but I am ABSOLUTELY overjoyed to be a member of the NTU, to represent the greatest bargaining unit in the country, and to be part of the team that is going to fight at that table for each and every one of us in less than one year.

Put that on your bulletin boards!

EXCELSIOR!

Michael Iovino
Proud Educator
and
NTU Secretary Treasurer

IMPORTANT!

- EVALUATION FRAMEWORK
- REBUTTAL TIPS
- RSVP TO MANDATES
- MISSED PREP FORM
- SUPPLEMENTAL TIME REPORT



NTTA Staff

MEMBER OF THE WEEK



Lisa Hromoko

COMPUTER TEACHER

Lafayette Street School

Lisa is the robotics coach here at Lafayette Street School and the Robotics District Coordinator; she helps her student create award-winning robots and win many competitions as well as setting up other coaches and supporting them along the way for a successful program. She is one of the hardest working individuals in Newark by far! She takes on the role of our point IT person. As the computer teacher, she is dedicated and understanding of our students' needs for a creative outlet such as coding. She is the coach for Girls Who Code, and she's single-handedly helping the girls of Lafayette realize their career possibilities in a STEM based study. Lastly, she helps all teachers feel supported in their rooms as well. Lisa is heartwarming, hardworking, and the most deserving person of honor. We appreciate you, Lisa!"

Nominated by: Amanda Ritterson

NTU STAFF MEMBER

Nomination

It takes a team to help a school function effectively. Each and every one of you play an important role. Each week, in our NTU Update the NTU would like to recognize outstanding staff members that are going above and beyond.

To nominate an NTU member, please click the link or QR code.

Nominate A Colleague Today!

click here!



SCAN ME

HARDSHIP HELP

ALL THE WAYS WE HELP UNION FAMILIES WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH

HERE WHEN YOU NEED US

Union Plus partners with brands you know and trust to offer special union member protections.

Participants in our Union Plus Mortgage, Credit Card, Personal Loan or supplemental insurance programs may be eligible for additional hardship assistance through our Mortgage Assistance Program or other Union Plus hardship programs.



HARDSHIP HELP BENEFITS FOR UNION MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Strike Benefits



Layoff or Furlough Assistance



Mortgage Assistance



Debt Management



[Save My Home Hotline](#)



[Credit Counseling](#)



[Bankruptcy Counseling](#)
[Fee Waiver](#)



[Disaster Relief Grants](#)



[Hospital Grants](#)



[Medical Bill](#)
[Negotiating Service](#)



[Disability Benefits](#)



Trauma Counseling Program

A free benefit for all active working AFT members to provide help and healing after facing personal or workplace trauma.



Covered Incidents

To receive this free benefit, AFT members who are actively working or on leave may submit a claim for up to one year after one of the following incidents:

24/7

- Aggravated assault
- Domestic violence
- Sexual assault
- Mass shootings
- Acts of terror
- Major disaster

AT WORK

- Bullied, harassed or threatened
- Traumatized by witnessing a violent incident
- Infection by contagious disease
- Secondary trauma



A Union of Professionals

AFT +
Member Benefits



[AFT.ORG/BENEFITS/TRAUMA](https://aft.org/benefits/trauma)

LifeMart means real savings for real life.
Your members will thank you.
Exclusive offers for child care, education, travel and more.

Life can be expensive. LifeMart, a members-only discount platform, provides offers and savings on major brands and everyday essentials to help your members stretch their dollar further.

From grocery and local coupons to child and senior care discounts, tickets, hotels, electronics and so much more; LifeMart has thousands of local and nationwide offers from brands your members know and love.

Whether you're planning a major purchase or just want to save on day-to-day essentials, LifeMart is your way to save.



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- Home
- Family
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- Home Mortgage
- Food & Grocery
- Flowers & Gifts



Log In

Screen Name

Password

[Forgot Screen Name](#) or [Password?](#)

[Log In](#)

Not registered yet? [Start Now!](#)

THE FDA IS EXTENDING THE SHELF LIFE OF AT-HOME COVID TESTS



QuickVue At-Home OTC COVID-19 Test



Flowflex COVID-19 Antigen Home Test

Please check the expiration dates and updated shelf life of the tests that you do have and will receive

If you have any questions, please call the Newark Department of Health Surveillance & Prevention Unit at 973-733-7592

If you receive any of these at-home COVID-19 tests, please visit <https://www.fda.gov/medical-devices/coronavirus-covid-19-and-medical-devices/home-otc-covid-19-diagnostic-tests#list> to see the new expiration dates



**THE NEWARK DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND THE MARY ELIZA MAHONEY
HEALTH CENTER ARE OFFERING
BIVALENT BOOSTERS AND FLU SHOTS**

No Appointment Necessary



**Flu and COVID
vaccines
(Moderna & Pfizer)
offered at
110 William St**

**Monday - Friday
8:30am-4:30pm**

**Bivalent
Booster
Available**

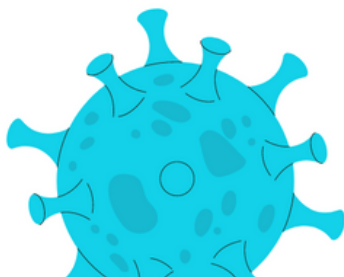


**COVID-19
Vaccinations
available for 6
months - 4yrs @
394 University
Ave
Monday-Friday
8:30am-4:30pm**

**Homebound
Vaccines Available**

**Offering Flu shot
for Ages 6 months+**

**For more information, please
call 973-733-7592**



NTU ED RESOURCE CENTER



The NTU Education Resource Center has a new **FULL COLOR POSTER PRINTER** and new **LAMINATORS** available for our members to use. **We do charge nominal fees to cover the cost of the materials.**

For best results, bring in a hardcopy or a PDF on a thumb drive for the poster printer.

Our Resource Center is open from
3:30 PM to 5:30 PM
Monday through Thursday.

1019 Broad Street, 1st Floor
Newark, NJ



IMPORTANT DATES



- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 - PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE
- MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20 - PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - NBOE BUSINESS MEETING, 6 PM
- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - NTU EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, 3:45 PM
- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - NTU BUILDING REP MEETING, 3:45 PM
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23 - NBOE MEETING, 6 PM
- SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 - NTU MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 9 AM

PLEASE NOTE THAT FEBRUARY 17 AND FEBRUARY 21 ARE THE WORK DAYS BEFORE OR AFTER A HOLIDAY. TO ENSURE THAT YOU GET PAID FOR THE HOLIDAY BREAK, YOU MUST TAKE A PERSONAL DAY IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE ABSENT ON ANY OF THOSE DAYS.

YOU CAN TAKE A SICK DAY ON THOSE DAYS AS LONG AS IT IS PART OF AN APPROVED MEDICAL LEAVE. UNLESS IT IS PART OF AN EXTENDED FMLA, YOU MUST SUBMIT A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE TO NBOE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES WITHIN 3 DAYS OF YOUR RETURN TO WORK.

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TENNILLE WASEK

The NTU's 2022 Annual Financial Statement is available upon request at the NTU offices by appointment. Email sscreven@newarkteachersunion.com