

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2016

LOCAL DO'S

THE GENERAL ELECTION



November 8, 2016

BMUST

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THE ELECTION IS UPON US

BY MARK STEINBERG,
BMUST PRESIDENT

By the time this issue of Local Do's gets published, Election Day should be imminent. We all have been "privileged" to have seen 3 Presidential debates and a plethora of television ads for both the Presidential and New York/Long Island elections. It certainly has been a unique election year and rather overwhelming at times. Stressful is a word that comes to mind too.

"Who we decide to vote for and who is eventually elected can either help or hinder our efforts to prevent a convention."

With so many claims and counterclaims being tossed around, it is sometimes difficult to get a handle on where our officials stand on the issues important to us. Public education policy will always be our focus as a union. With the next President likely being responsible to nominate a few Supreme Court Justices and our local officials making decisions about testing, APPR, Common Core, and Charter schools, it is imperative that we all get out to vote November 8. In any given election NYSUT members can make up 4-8% of the electorate. Our vote can have a significant impact in close races. However you choose to vote, just vote!

Another reason it is vital that we all participate in this election is because of the following question that will appear on the ballot in 2017. "Shall there be a convention to revise the constitution and amend same?" Whether a Constitutional Convention is convened would have an enormous impact on every NYSUT member as well as every citizen in the state. During the summer, a poll indicated 60% of people favored having the convention, 25% opposed

it, and 15% were undecided. Who we decide to vote for and who is eventually elected can either help or hinder our efforts to prevent a convention. While many officials support pension forfeiture for politicians who are convicted of crimes, opening the constitution to achieve this goal could affect our pensions, our right to be a member of a union and bargain collectively, and the right for everyone to have a free public education.



Mark Steinberg,
President, BMUST

NYSUT and BMUST will work together and collaborate with other constituency groups to prevent a Constitutional Convention. In the meantime, our job is to get people out to vote. Pledge to vote postcards will be distributed as a reminder to participate in this election.

Please do your best to vote November 8, stay politically active, and become informed about the issues which are critical to our jobs and lives here in New York.

Take the Pledge – VOTE!

In solidarity,

Mark



<http://pledge.nysut.org/>

NYSUT ENDORSEMENTS 2016

New York State Assembly

United States Senate

Chuck Schumer (D/WF/I)

House of Representatives

CD Name

1	Anna Throne-Holst (D)
2	DuWayne Gregory (D-WF-I)
3	Thomas Suozzi (D)
4	NO ENDORSEMENT
5	Gregory Meeks (D)

New York State Senate

SD Name

1	Kenneth LaValle (R-C-I)
2	NO ENDORSEMENT
3	Tom Croci (R-C-I)
4	Phil Boyle (R-C-I)
5	NO ENDORSEMENT
6	NO ENDORSEMENT
7	Adam Haber (D)
8	NO ENDORSEMENT
9	Todd Kaminsky (D)

AD Name

1	Fred Thiele Jr. (D-WF-I)
2	Anthony Palumbo (R-C-I)
3	Dean Murray (R-C-I)
4	Steve Englebright (D-WF-I)
5	Alfred Graf (R-C-I)
6	Phil Ramos (D-WF-I)
7	Andrew Garbarino (R-C-I)
8	Richard Macellaro (D)
9	Joseph Saladino (R-C-I)
10	Chad Lupinacci (R-C-I)
11	Kimberly Jean Pierre (D-WF-I)
12	Andrew Raia (R-C-I)
13	Charles Lavine (D-WF-I)
14	David McDonough (R-C-I)
15	Michael Montesano (R-C-I)
16	Anthony D'Urso (D/WF)
17	Tom McKeivitt (R-C-I)
18	NO ENDORSEMENT
19	Edward Ra (R-C-I)
20	Anthony Eramo (D)
21	NO ENDORSEMENT
22	Michaëlle Solages (D-WF-I)



WELCOME BACK PARTY!

GRILLFIRE, MERRICK, N.Y.



Ellen Robilotto, Denise Schleith, Sharon Lefkowitz, Roberta Mohr



Bruce Reed and Mark Steinberg



Heather Castellano, Heather Bizewski, Lisa Steinberg



Jen Greco, Kathryn Elefterion, Kaitlyn Seigneuray, Matt Grasso



Sarah Cronin, Barbara Baier, Cheryl LoVerro



Sean Arresto, Dawn Silvestri, Mike Langer



Martha DeGiovanna, Geisha Kwiatkowski,
Mary Sweeney, Catrina Christensen, Julia Motley



Retirees, Carolyn Fredericks & Arlene Griggs



Chris Gallaro, Ellen Robilotto, Nora Sheppard,
Sharon Lefkowitz, Denise Schleith, Roberta Mohr, Sue Danis



Retirees, Jack Klein, Joe Gsell



Retirees, Jane Kline, Monica Wiener



Retirees, Sharon Wisla, Sue Stamile, Carol Finkel

In Memoriam

Richard

Anderson

Special Education Teacher:
Grand Avenue M.S.

Wrestling Coach:
J.F.K. H.S. (1995-05)
Mepham H.S. (2005-2016)



Our friend and colleague, Richard Anderson, passed away on July 23, 2016. Richard was a special education teacher at Grand Avenue Middle School and the head coach of the Mepham Pirates wrestling team for 20 years. Richard is survived by his lovely wife Kristen and their three children, Kayla, Aly, and Luke. Members of our BMUST staff have included the following reflections to honor Richard's memory.

"Coach of the Year"

By Brian DeGaetano, JFK H.S.

Rich's caring demeanor endeared him to his students, wrestlers, colleagues, and fellow coaches. There is nothing that he wouldn't do for his wrestlers, students, friends, or family. Richard had a distinguished career as a wrestling coach. In 2012, Coach Anderson was named the Nassau County "Coach of the Year" for his exceptional service as head coach. In more than twenty years of teaching and coaching, Rich Anderson touched the lives of countless children who no doubt are better men and women today for having known him. He will be greatly missed by the entire Bellmore-Merrick family.

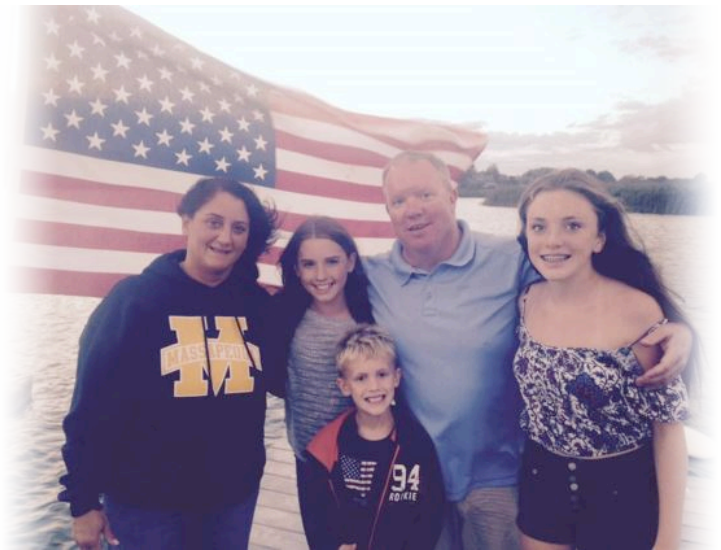
“He Was Simply Loved By All”

by James Fox, Grand Ave M.S.

As the 2016-2017 school year began in September, I struggled for the first time in a long time going to work at Grand Avenue. We all have difficult days because the job is so demanding. However, this year it was difficult from day one. I seemed like I lost my energy and passion for teaching and coaching. I lost my friend, my brother, Rich Anderson this summer after his courageous fight against cancer. I still can't believe that he is not in room 144.

I pass that room every school day and get chills down my spine. Richie and I would often have lunch together there and he would make me laugh for 41 minutes straight. No matter what mood I was in, Richie always made me feel better. He would always put things in perspective and make me look at the big picture. He always did this with humor and kindness. I miss his mischievous giggle the most.

Richie was like that with everybody especially his students and the athletes he coached. He was so patient and could deal with all kinds



of personalities. In short, he understood people. He was extremely intelligent and the wittiest person I ever met. He made Grand Avenue such a fun place to work and I know that I speak for the whole staff. I never heard a person say a bad word about Rich. He was simply loved by all. Rich had an amazing impact on Grand Avenue as well as Kennedy and Mepham High Schools. I personally miss him so much but I feel so fortunate that I had the opportunity to have him in my life. His influence on me, the Grand Avenue staff, the students and the athletes that Rich taught and coached throughout the district will last forever.



“A Life in Service to Others”

**by Sean Arresto,
Grand Avenue M.S.**

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of Coach Rich Anderson. After a hard-fought bout with cancer, Coach Anderson passed away on Saturday July 23, 2016.

Coach Anderson was the head coach of the Mepham Pirates wrestling team from 2005 - 2016 after starting his career across town as the assistant coach at Bellmore JFK. Coach's insatiable knowledge of the sport paired with his caring demeanor endeared him to his wrestlers and fellow coaches. There is nothing that he wouldn't do for his wrestlers.

In 2012, Coach Anderson was named the Nassau County Coach of the Year. As Pirates' head coach, he coached 29 All-County wrestlers, four county champs, and a two-time state champion. In more than twenty years of coaching, Rich Anderson touched the lives of countless wrestlers who no doubt are better men today for having known him. He will be greatly missed by the Mepham wrestling family as well as the entire Long Island wrestling community.

If you would like to donate to the Anderson family fundraiser, please go to <https://www.gofundme.com/296v93w> here. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.



Anderson Family Fundraiser



All Proceeds to benefit the family of Rich Anderson

November 5th from 3 PM - 7 PM

Mulcahy's Pub in Wantagh

\$100 per person includes food, drinks, and live music.

(Raffles to be sold for baskets and prizes)

Tickets can be purchased at the following website:

www.youcaring.org/RichAnderson

Live Music By



Matt Cutillo

AND

**JERRY &
THE NEWCOMERS**

“HONORING AN UNSUNG HERO”**by ROBYN EINBINDER****(SOCIAL STUDIES CHAIR, MEPHAM H.S.) LOCAL DOS GUEST WRITER**

Mepham High School’s Leadership Program honored our beloved custodian Carmel Volmar on Tuesday, September 27th through Josten’s Renaissance program, Mepham had the opportunity to host this Leadership Conference featuring Mike Smith, an inspirational speaker, who through his video series *The Harbor* and his speaking engagements, promotes character development and leadership skills. Hundreds of students attended the conference including students from Bayside HS, Plainedge HS, Mineola HS, Huntington HS, Calhoun HS, Kennedy HS, MAP, MESA school in Brooklyn, Great Neck HS, and more. As the host school, Mepham Leadership students were asked to create a “Dude, Be Nice” video to honor an unsung hero in our building. The senior Leadership classes chose Carmel Volmar, one of our custodians, as our honoree. The senior leaders with the assistance of Mr. Bertuch, interviewed numerous faculty members and administrators and students, and put together a video to say thank you to Carmel for all of his hard work and dedication to the students and staff at Mepham. The students surprised Carmel at the conference, and after playing the video for him, gave him flowers and a Mepham Pirates football jersey to commemorate the occasion. Congratulations to the Leadership program for a job well done and to Carmel Volmar for everything he does for Mepham everyday!

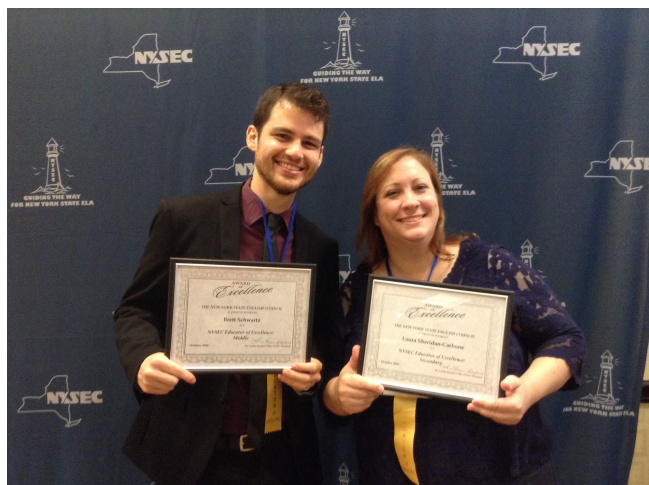
MEPHAM LEADERSHIP STUDENTS CREATED THE “DUDE, BE NICE” VIDEO
HONORING AN UNSUNG HERO. YOU CAN VIEW THEIR VIDEO HERE:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBwosfsUdFNimaXdLbmlDUTcwNWM/view>



“M.A.P. PAVING THE WAY”

BY LAURA SHERIDAN (M.A.P. H.S.), LOCAL DO'S STAFF WRITER



who, incidentally, has recently become a North Merokean AND has now taken over as our BMUST hallway rep. She accepted the baton from **Geisha Kwiatkowski** last month.

Lastly, **Susan Ellinghaus** would like to congratulate **Laura Sheridan** on being selected by the **New York State English Council** as a **2016 Educator of Excellence**. Laura received her award at the NYSEC 2016 Conference in Albany on October 21.

We bid a sad but fond farewell to **Gail Harrison** who has been our security officer since last December. Gail was a wonderful addition to our staff, and we will miss her terribly. Conversely, we are happy to welcome **Sinéad Atkinson** (Eng.) and **Zachary Gosse** (S.E./S.S.) as new teachers on our hallway. **Martha Di Giovanna** (Sci.) and **Catrina Christensen** (Guid.) are now with us full-time. We also welcome **Keri Cinelli**, **Señora Erika Feldman**, and **Nicole Tschan** to MAP where they are performing split shifts.

MAP's new chapter of GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), under the guidance of **Jennifer Weinstein-Ondras**, had its first meeting this month. Key Club is working on completion of our Military Wall of Honor, setting up the district-wide pantry, serving food at the Harvest Ball for Seniors, and helping Mepham with its formal wear drive. They visited children at A.C.D.S. where they were "student teachers" in classrooms. They walked with MAP student Jean DeRurange on the 23rd for Juvenile Diabetes and raised money for JD1 through a pancake breakfast and bake sales.

This year MAP has added AP Psych to its course offerings. It is being taught by **Mary Sweeney**



Laura Sheridan, Awarded the 2016 Educator of Excellence.



“FACULTY IN ACTION”

**BY LISA SHAPIRO (M.A.M.S.),
LOCAL DO'S STAFF WRITER**

The 2016-2017 school-year at Merrick Avenue was kicked off by the faculty greeting students outside as they arrived to embark on their first day of school. Our staff also wore MAMS gear to share their pride and Ram spirit. This, combined with team town meetings, seems to have set a positive tone for the building.

Our After-School program has had a makeover! The Rams Academic Program (R.A.P.) began October 5th. Student collaboration is encouraged in addition to providing a space to get homework, studying and socializing done. Each day has been assigned a specific content area so that students needing to focus on a particular topic have access to more specialized assistance in addition regularly offered extra help.

This year, our Social Studies Department wanted to commemorate the 15th anniversary of 9/11 differently than in recent years. They decided to create a museum experience featuring patriotic images from around the country taken on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Classes were brought down to the auditorium to view photographs which included memorials and statues dedicated to 9/11 victims. Students were instructed to select images that stood out to them as being the most meaningful. Additionally, they were asked to identify symbols that conveyed what it means to be an American and why those symbols are so near and dear to the United States. Conversations about patriotism and the importance of remembering 9/11 continued in each classroom following this experience.

On a final note, the Ram family would like to extend a warm “Welcome Back” to Lynda Nislow and Kristin Fusaro, after their return from maternity leaves.

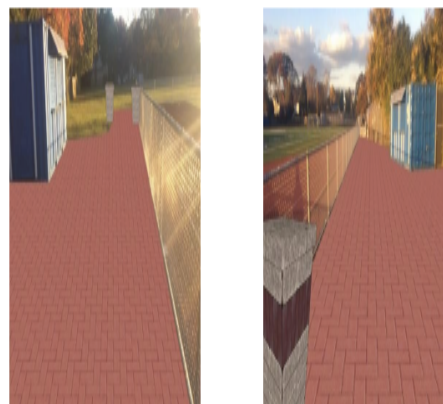
“WALK OF PRIDE”

**BY WENDY SIMSON (CALHOUN H.S.),
LOCAL DO'S STAFF WRITER**

Congratulations are in order for our National Merit Commended students. They scored among the top 5% of more than 1.6 million students who took the PSAT last year. They are Julia Losner, David Bekore, Matthew Garber, and Rebecca Unz. Congratulations to them!

Our Calhoun Colts **Walk of Pride** has been completed! It looks beautiful and we appreciate all the sponsorships we received to make it possible. Now we would like to begin Phase II. We would like to add more bricks, benches, and other adornments to our campus. You can buy a brick by contacting the Alumni Association @ calhounalumni2@gmail.com.

While we are so pleased with the construction accomplished this summer and until now, not everything is completely perfect yet; we are pleased that the HVAC's are working in Calhoun. The work is still in progress and we look forward to completing bathrooms throughout the year, putting finishing touches on all the rooms, and continuing to upgrade our facilities.



CALHOUN COLTS WALK OF PRIDE

NYSUT MEMBER BENEFITS ANNOUNCES 4 NEW ENDORSED PROGRAMS!



Office Depot/OfficeMax

This program offers NYSUT members & their families the opportunity to save up to 80% on almost 100,000 products in all Office Depot/OfficeMax locations or online through the company's website; the average savings on items is approximately 30%. NYSUT members can save on school supplies, office supplies, ink & toner, copying & printing, and much more.

Tunstall Medical Alert

Tunstall offers a variety of medical alert products that ensure NYSUT members and/or their family members living alone can get quick assistance when they need it; the majority of Tunstall's products have a lightweight, waterproof activator that can be worn around the neck or wrist.

When pushed, the Tunstall activator signals a base unit that in turn communicates directly with the Tunstall 24/7/365 Emergency Response Center. Tunstall offers personal emergency response systems for both traditional landline and cell phone users that directly connect with the Tunstall Emergency Response Center when the activator button is pushed.

Premier World Discovery

This program offers a variety of group tour vacations designed for active adult American travelers specializing in domestic and international worldwide tours. NYSUT members & their family members who use the Premier

World Discovery program can save \$100 per person on specific tours and cruises.

Since the company's inception in 1999, Premier World Discovery has developed a lineup of more than 70 travel programs around the globe, including fully-escorted tours, unique rail tours, private-chartered European river cruises, festive holiday and New Year's getaways, and more.

Abenity Discounts

The Abenity discounts program gives NYSUT members access to approximately 290,000 exclusive member discounts across 10,000 U.S. cities, including discounted tickets for entertainment & sporting events; a variety of travel opportunities; and numerous local deals.

With the Abenity discounts program, you'll be able to enjoy substantial savings on tickets to the latest blockbuster movies or theater events, theme parks, museums & attractions, zoos, major appliances/televisions, restaurants, groceries, gym memberships, and much more!

NYSUT members can utilize their Abenity discounts program on any mobile device and gain access to exclusive local deals no matter where you are. Purchase tickets to more than 3,000 movie theaters and theme parks. There are no hidden fees and you'll receive electronic tickets immediately!

To learn more about Member Benefits-endorsed programs & services, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org or call 800-626-8101.

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.