

HRC EDUCATION EVENTS

Date	Place	Title and Purpose
3/3/99	New York City Lab School, Manhattan, NY	Importance of Involving Girls in Sports -to highlight the importance of involvement in sports and benefits to girls who participate
3/2/99	Intermediate School #25 Flushing, NY	Release of "Gaining the Arts Advantage" -to talk with young people about the arts and release "Gaining the Arts Advantage"
2/2/99	Bedford-Stuyvesant YMCA Brooklyn, NW	Families Agenda Roundtable -Discussion with working parents highlighting families agenda including increasing allotments for afterschool programs.
1/21/99	OEOB 450	Qualified Teachers in Every Classroom Event w/POTUS -To announce initiatives designed to attract more talented, well prepared teachers to the classroom.
1/12/99	John Haines School Chicago, IL	After School Event -Visited a Lighthouse Afterschool Program in Chicago to promote the President's proposals to increase funding for after school.
1/7/99	White House	Announcement of Proposals to Increase Afterschool Programs and End Social Promotion w/POTUS -President announces his proposal to triple funding for afterschool programs and support school districts ending social promotion.
11/12/98	White House	Announcement on After School Grants and Child Care Data w/POTUS -To demonstrate progress and bipartisan support for after school programs by announcing new grants.
11/5/98	White House	Central High School National Historic Site Bill Signing -To sign into law a bill establishing Little Rock Central High as a National Historic Site and to honor the "Little Rock Nine."
10/20/98	Edgerly Education Center East Somerville, MA	Massachusetts Education Event -To highlight education for candidates in November elections (class size, school construction).
10/20/98	North Providence H.S. North Providence, RI	York for Governor Education Event -To highlight the democrat's education agenda for Myrth York, RI candidate for governor (lower class size, school construction, college affordable and accessible).
10/16/98	Halle Hewetson Elementary School Las Vegas, NV	Las Vegas Education Event -To highlight the democrat's education agenda for democratic candidates (class size).

10/15/98	Santa Fe Community College Early Childhood Development Center, Santa Fe, NM	Santa Fe Education Event -To highlight democratic candidates work in education and early childhood education.
10/8/98	Little Rock Hilton Inn, Little Rock, AR	AEA/Blanche Lincoln Public Education Rally -Rally to celebrate excellence in public education in Arkansas and chance to show support for Blanche Lincoln, US Senate Candidate.
9/24/98	Fort Logan Elementary, Sheridan, CO	Colorado Education Event -To illustrate the key difference between Democratic and Republican candidates on education issues (class size, safe schools, teacher development, content standards).
9/15/98	White House	Arts Education Event -To host a ceremony focusing on the important role of the arts in education while making the case for the arts in children's development, citing importance research evidence, and noting key partners who have advanced the cause.
9/8/98	John Eaton Elementary, Washington DC	Promoting School Modernization and Announcement of New Grants to Support DC School Reform -To celebrate "National School Modernization Day" and promote the President's modernization initiative in DC public schools as well as announce tow grant to support ongoing reform efforts in DC (reading specialists in every school, school to work counselors in every high school).
8/4/98	White House	Remarks to DC's Charter Schools -To express the Administration's support for DC Charter Schools.
7/16/98	Greater Ithaca Activities Center, Ithaca, NY	Discussion on Child Care and After School Care -To participate in a discussion with Rep. Maurice Hinchey and childcare and afterschool care reps, emphasizing the President's childcare and afterschool care initiatives.
6/17/98	White House	21st Century Learning Programs Event w/POTUS -To highlight President's proposed to expand the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program and announce 1998 program grant winners while releasing a report that shows after school programs can decrease juvenile crime and improve academic performance.
6/12/98	Lafayette Elementary, Washington DC	Lafayette Elementary School 6th Grade Graduation -To participate in the 6th grade graduation ceremony at Lafayette.
6/7/98	Ronald Reagan International Trade Bldg, Washington DC	USAID Girls Education Conference -To deliver the keynote address at USAID's Girls Education Conference, highlighting the importance of girls' education, celebrating programs toward eliminating the gender disparity in education, and challenging all sectors of society to meet the call to end the disparity.

6/3/98	Chicago Cultural Center, Chicago, IL	Mayor Daley School Principals' Arts and Education Luncheon -To deliver the keynote at Mayor Daley's second annual Chicago Public Schools Principals' Arts and Education Luncheon.
4/30/98	Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT	Remarks to the Yale Child Study Center Symposium in Honor of the School Development Program's 30th Anniversary -To make remarks on education reform and school vouchers.
4/29/98	Adlai Stevenson Elementary School, Elk Grove Village, IL	Visit to Stevenson Elementary School -To visit the school and underscore the President's commitment to modernization, highlighting a renovated school and school district.
3/5/98	Dunbar High School, Washington DC	Highlighting Math and Science Education at Dunbar H.S. -To discuss the importance of math and science education and highlighting the President's science and math education agenda, to make the connection between fascinating careers and the need to improve the nations performance in math and science, and to announce the Dept of Education report which analyzes the TIMSS data and discuss effective strategies to improve math education in the middle school years.
1/23/98	PS 154 Harriet Tubman School, NY, NY	Virtual Y Child Care Event -To visit the Virtual Y after school program, highlighting the after school component of the President's recent Child Care initiative, as well as successful public private partnerships.
10/6/97	Malcolm X Elementary, Washington DC	Malcolm X Elementary School Visit and Sallie Mae Announcement -To tour the Malcolm X Elementary School and deliver remarks at the announcement of Sallie Mae Funds for reforms and repairs to the DC Schools. Reform focuses on technology, literacy and research based strategies for reforming individual schools.
9/17/97	San Carlos Charter Learning Center, California	Charter Schools Event w/POTUS -To demonstrate commitment to charter schools and highlight the success charter schools are having in California while urging Congress to continue funding charter schools and other education initiatives.
6/30/97	Mayflower Hotel, Washington DC	Washington Post Principals Leadership Institute -To give remarks at the Washington Post Principals Leadership Institute Seminar highlighting the administration's efforts to improve education and your own educational philosophy of high expectations and community involvement.
6/19/97	Kent Denver School, Englewood, CO	Summerbridge Program Discussion -To visit the Denver Summerbridge Program and participate in a discussion with students, teachers and parents highlighting the importance of mentoring and education initiatives like Summerbridge.

6/16/97	J.O. Wilson Elementary, Washington DC	Washington Interfaith Network Festival -To make remarks at the year end celebration of the WIN After School Program and highlight with Secretary Riley, the Department of Education's report on Community Learning Centers.
3/4/97	White House	Meeting on Educational Standards w/POTUS (In House) -To discuss several ways of advancing the President's agenda of national standard and tests.
3/3/97	Ketcham Elementary, Anacostia	DC School Construction Announcement -To announce that the federal government is giving \$18 million to the DC Control Board for the repair of DC Schools.
10/10/96	East High School, Erie, Pennsylvania	Rally at East High School -To address students and community members highlighting the President's accomplishments with a particular emphasis on education.
10/9/96	Mount Vernon High School	Remarks to Mount Vernon Township High School -To address the student body at Mount Vernon High School.
10/9/96	West High School, Madison, WI	Remarks to West High School -To address students, faculty and parents highlighting the President's education accomplishments and the importance of community involvement in education.
10/8/96	Mott Elementary, Flint, Michigan	DARE Event at Mott Elementary School
10/3/96	Ford Elementary School, Lynn, MA	Discussion at Ford Elementary School -To join democratic candidates for a discussion on education.
10/3/96	Cheltenham High School, Wyncott, PA	Remarks at Cheltenham High School -To address students, faculty and parents highlighting the President's education accomplishments and initiatives to ensure all students have the opportunity to attend college, and the importance of parental involvement.
10/2/96	Wilmington High School, Wilmington, Delaware	Wilmington High School Event -To tour Wilmington High School and the Charter School of Wilmington and to address the school and community, highlighting the President's education accomplishments and support for charter schools.
7/26/96	Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA	National Association of Elementary School Principals State Leaders' Conference -To address the NAESP to highlight the Administration's commitment to children and their education and to accept their "Distinguished Service Award."
6/22/96	Washington Hilton & Towers, Washington DC	National Parent Teacher Association Event -To convey your thoughts on the issue faced by American youth both

		in and out of school, and the impact those issues have on education while communicating a positive and supportive message concerning family and education.
5/30/96	C.K. McClatchy High School, Sacramento, CA	Discussion at CK McClatchy High School -To participate in a discussion with parents, students and teachers emphasizing the importance of community involvement in drug prevention efforts.
5/16/96	Drew University, Madison, NJ	Drew University Commencement Address -To deliver the commencement address at Drew with some focus on education.
3/6/96 ★☆☆	Shea's Center for the Performing Arts, Buffalo, NY	Buffalo Teachers Federation -To address a gathering of 3,000 public school teachers and administrators one day before the New York primary.
3/5/96	Driscoll Middle School Corpus Christi, TX	Driscoll Middle School Event -To participate in a discussion at Driscoll Middle School on the importance of parental and community involvement in the education of children.
3/2/96	Hermantown Middle School, Hermantown, MN	Kids Plus Event -To participate in a discussion and stress the important role that parents and communities play in supporting families and children.
2/26/96	White House	Meet and Greet with 5th Graders -To meet a class of 5th graders visiting from Chicago, and take a group photo.
2/25/96	Potter Thomas Elementary, Philadelphia, PA	Potter Thomas Elementary School Tour and Discussion -To tour the Potter Thomas Elementary School and have a discussion with teachers, parents and students.
2/4/96 ☆☆☆☆	Grand Hyatt Hotel, Washington DC	Address to National School Boards Association Legislative Conference -To address the NSBA's federal relations network legislative conference about the importance of taking responsibility for educating our children.
1/10/96 ☆☆☆☆	White House	Redbook Magazine Interview -focusing on how parents can get involved with schools, centerpiece of "Americas Best Public Schools" issue.
8/9/95	White House	Safe and Drug Free Schools -To highlight the importance of the Clinton's drug free schools program and the importance of such programs with a forum of Baltimore City Public School students and Dr. Lee Brown, Director of Office of National Drug Control Policy.
6/25/95	White House	Children's Television Event -To highlight the importance of public broadcasting to children's education with programming experts and characters from TV shows.

2/28/95	Long Branch Elementary, Arlington, VA	School Lunch Event -To highlight the dangers of block granting school nutrition programs.
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Making Standards Count

The Case for Student Incentives

American Federation of Teachers
President Albert Shanker's
Remarks at the Brookings Institution
Washington, D.C.
May 18, 1994



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New York State United Teachers

25th Anniversary: 1973 - 1998

1. BIRTH of a UNION

In 1972, two rival teacher unions decide to seek common ground

In 1953, the West Hempstead superintendent approached a rookie teacher in the Long Island district about joining a union. "He said it was a good organization and even offered to pay my dues," said Emanuel Kafka. "He admitted he got credit for teachers who joined."



The New York State Teachers Association was dominated at the time by administrators, making it a less effective voice for classroom teachers.

Kafka refused the superintendent's offer to pay his dues and joined for reasons of his own. Like thousands of other teachers, he saw the union as it could be: a real avenue for improving conditions for students and educators. "I was disgusted with how school employees were treated, the low salaries, the few benefits," Kafka said in 1997, just months before he died.

Albert Shanker, also a rookie in 1953, joined a union soon after starting at JHS 126, Queens. "I understood very quickly that nothing would change for the better unless teachers learned to take matters into their own hands," Shanker said in the 1960s. (He died in February 1997 at the age of 68.)

A dream of unity

One strong statewide union had long been Shanker's dream, even as he struggled to organize all of New York City. In 1960, he led the fight to represent all 106 city staff organizations, then divided by subject matter, grade levels, boroughs, religion and politics. So began the United Federation of Teachers, which became the largest local affiliate of the Empire State Federation of Teachers.



That statewide union, meanwhile, changed its name twice more. In the sixties, it was renamed New York State Federation of Teachers. In 1971, the statewide union was renamed again, and Shanker became the first president of United Teachers of New York.

By the time Kafka was elected NYSTA president in 1969,

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he, like Shanker, recognized the need for statewide unity. Public employees were facing huge threats. The 1971 Legislature passed a series of bills that eroded teachers' rights, increased probation, and eliminated minimum salaries and sabbaticals.

Meanwhile, each of the two statewide teacher unions had spent untold amounts of time and money contesting its rival's right to represent teachers at the bargaining table. For teachers to have a united political voice, these battles would have to stop.

"In western New York, the idea of merger was not controversial," said Marcella Fugle, who taught science in Hamburg in Erie County. Those against merger either opposed collective bargaining or feared being swallowed up by larger groups.

At the state level, leaders of both NYSTA and UTNY worked to strengthen their organizations with the goal of achieving a merger. They increased field services and member benefits and created a unified dues structure. The two unions, now structurally similar, turned their full attention to the question of statewide unity. Merger talks, explored off and on since 1970, became a priority.

These negotiations were led by UTNY President Albert Shanker and newly elected NYSTA President Tom Hobart of Buffalo. After months of intensive bargaining, the merger agreement was signed March 30, 1972. Two statewide unions, long accustomed to competing for the attention of lawmakers and reporters, began to work together to protect members' rights and strengthen education.

Hobart said at the time, "We have made a commitment to working together instead of working at cross-purposes. By joining together, and forming the largest employee organization in New York state, teachers will now have the power to improve the quality of education for every child and to raise the status of the teaching profession."

[Continue to 'Growing Pains'](#)



New York State United Teachers

25th Anniversary: 1973 - 1998

2. GROWING PAINS

By 1976, the statewide union's existence was in jeopardy

In some ways, 1972 was the best of times and the worst of times. Two rival teachers unions had merged in New York state, creating the hope of hard-won unity. But there was continuing tension. New York State United Teachers had alliances at the national level to both the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers. Differences of philosophy were so great that soon after its formation, NYSUT was threatened with breakup.



"It was a tense time," recalled NYSUT First Vice President Antonia Cortese. "The entire organization could have gone down."

High hopes

NYSUT President Tom Hobart said that "after the statewide merger, we had high hopes for teacher unity nationwide. Things were going so well." NYSUT had gained NEA approval of the statewide merger at its 1972 convention in Chicago. Hobart recalled, "We thought that would be a trend when we promoted teacher unity nationwide."

After helping to form the National Council for Unity, NYSUT leaders traveled across the country talking up the dream of a national merger between rivals AFT and NEA. "But we didn't anticipate or understand," said Hobart, "that there was an NEA staff network operating through a service program for locals which was out to prevent any move to a national merger."

Walls of resistance

For the next three years, NYSUT faced resistance and isolation at NEA conventions and board meetings as its delegation tried to argue the case for national teacher unity or challenged NEA on the issues. During those years, Cortese observed, NYSUT local leaders realized that AFT "had a better grasp of the issues, was a better member advocate and, being in the labor movement, was better oriented to the goals of working people."

Jeanne Mattis, a NYSUT retired member from the Westmoreland Teachers Association, recalled "getting callouses" from mostly sitting around at NEA conventions. "We were well informed on the issues, but weren't given any

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committee assignments or real work," she said. "Our leadership was being treated so shabbily."

Still, NYSUT's leaders remained hopeful. "We felt we were going to make this work," said Hobart.

Tensions rise

But in 1975, officers learned that NEA was moving to end its affiliation with NYSUT. NYSUT's directors balked at such coercion. They proposed to eliminate wording in the statewide union's constitution that required affiliation with NEA.

"No one was planning on dropping out of the NEA," Hobart recalled. "We just didn't want to be bullied."

Tensions heightened in the months prior to the 1976 state convention when NEA, over NYSUT's protests, launched what it called an image-enhancement campaign in the state. "Actually, it was a thinly disguised Trojan horse to undermine NYSUT," said Vito DeLeonardis, the union's executive director at the time.

The growing tensions with NEA sparked debate at NYSUT's 1976 convention in New York City. It was there that Albert Shanker gave a speech that galvanized delegates behind NYSUT. Shanker compared the 4-year-old union to an intricate but still delicate clockworks that could be shattered by NEA's attacks. Many said NYSUT truly came of age at that moment.

It would take another year of challenges by a rival state organization set up by the NEA before it became clear that the NYSUT merger would remain intact.

NEA fell far short of its prediction that it would win 50,000 members away from NYSUT. In fact, NYSUT lost fewer than 20,000 members that year.

As many of the locals that left NYSUT during the 1976-77 school year reaffiliated, NYSUT membership continued to climb.

"I think people were genuinely concerned about making the wrong decision," said Cortese. "But local leaders saw that this (NYSUT) was an organization which was going to make it, and an organization that was going to make a difference. We still say it today."

Today, more than two decades after the disaffiliation vote, the dream of national teacher unity is close to being realized. With many of the past's divisive issues resolved, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association are making progress on merger talks.

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New York State United Teachers

The people who help New York to learn.



1999 Representative Assembly Highlights

New York State United Teachers 1999
Representative Assembly Highlights.
Niagara Falls Convention and Civic
Center.

GENERAL SESSION I

Thursday, April 22, 8 p.m.

- Greetings from Niagara Falls Teachers Association President Robert Laub
- Greetings from Niagara Falls Mayor James Galie
- Greetings from Niagara Falls Superintendent Carmen Granto
- Greetings from Earl Manners, president of the Ontario Teachers Federation
- Presentation of NYSUT's Albert Shanker Distinguished Service Award to First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
- State of the Union Address by NYSUT President Thomas Y. Hobart Jr.

GENERAL SESSION II

Friday, April 23, 10:30 a.m. to Noon

- Greetings from state AFL-CIO President Denis Hughes
- Address by American Federation of Teachers President Sandra Feldman
- Report by NYSUT Executive Vice President Alan B. Lubin
- Report by NYSUT Secretary-Treasurer Fred Nauman
- Committee Reports

GENERAL SESSION III

Friday, April 23, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- Keynote Address by U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer
- Remarks by Regents Chancellor Carl Hayden
- Report by NYSUT First Vice President

PLEASE NOTE:

Dates and times of speeches and greetings are tentative and subject to change. Please contact the NYSUT Press Office during the Representative Assembly for confirmation. In addition, all press wishing to cover the speech of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday evening, April 22 must contact NYSUT Media Relations/Communications at (518) 459-5400, Ext. 6313 before 5 p.m. on April 19.

SEE ALSO:

"NYSUT to Focus on Restoring Civility to the Classroom; Hillary Clinton, Schumer to Address 27th Representative Assembly"

Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau

Niagara Falls Convention and Civic Center

COMING SOON: RA '99 Online

CONTACT: Linda Rosenblatt,
Director, or Denise Clapham or Carl
Korn, Media
Relations/Communications,
518-459-5400, EXT. 6313.

- Antonia Cortese
- Debate on Resolutions

GENERAL SESSION IV

Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m. to Noon

- Address by state Education Commissioner Richard Mills
- Report by NYSUT Second Vice President Walter Dunn
- Remarks by U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Westchester
- Remarks by state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer
- Debate on Resolutions

GENERAL SESSION V

Saturday, April 24, 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

- Presentation of NYSUT Community Service Awards
- Presentation on Sweat Free Schools Campaign
- Debate on Resolutions

CONTACT: Linda Rosenblatt, Director
or Denise Clapham or Carl Korn
Media Relations/Communications
518-459-5400, EXT. 6313

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FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK
APRIL 22, 1999

Acknowledgments: Tom Hobart, (president of NYSUT); ; Alan Lubin, (executive vice president); Tony Cortizsss, (first vice president); Walter (Dunn, second vice president); Fred (Newman, secretary Treasurer); Randy Weingarten (president of NYC's AFT); Sandy Feldman, president, AFT.

This state has such a rich history -- and so much of that story is the history of labor, and the struggle of working people. Last summer, I visited the Kate Mullany House in Troy -- who first organized women garment workers in NYC; "You show me the women" -- she said brashly -- "and I'll turn them into organizers."

I was there as part of a trip through this region of New York to highlight preserve what we truly value of our past; our monuments; our art and culture; and the historic sites that tell the story of this nation -- and preserve them for future generations.

that trip -- and one I took last winter -- is part of what we are doing with the White House Millennium Council. It's theme is "Honor the past, imagine the future." And that's what we do here tonight -- as we honor Al Shanker -- and reflect on how his legacy has helped us imagine a better future -- through education.

how I love New York; theme of last year's trip; honor the past; imagine the future; that's what we do tonight -- as we pay tribute to Al Shanker; honor to receive this award; we also honor the labor movement; which has brought us to where we are today;

but as we honor our past -- we learn from it; that means looking not just at our noblest achievements, but at our failings as well; in education, we've made so much progress (stats); but we've also been unable to close the gaps that continue to rob some of the opportunities they deserve:

the president's plan: what we need to do to get to the next step; to ensure every child gets a world-class education. New standards ESEA:

but also Title I reauthorization: must protect the jobs not only of teachers -- but teacher's aides; bus drivers; etc. Who do such a good job.....

I know that even as the country is in its most prosperous -- that there are problems of unemployment, and people struggling to make ends meet -- here in upstate New York and other

regions of the state and nation.

must do more than education;

improve the lives of working people:

social security;

medicare;

child care;

equal pay;

how do we imagine the future -- every time we teach a child; strengthen a school; save a life;

it all comes back to education: the foundation of democracy;

Tonight -- as we celebrate the past -- and imagine the future -- let's remind ourselves of what I believe is the real heart of what America stands for. It's not just that we've always had great generals or political leaders. Other nations have had them as well. It's not just that we've had great business leaders, or creative geniuses; other societies, too, have been enriched by their contributions throughout time. What I believe we've done here -- and which is our greatest strength -- is that we have empowered average men and women -- working men and women. We've given them a reason to believe that they too can make something out of their lives; that they can walk and live and work with dignity and confidence. That they -- and their children -- have a chance to live up to their fullest, God-given potential.

I want to thank everyone here -- who works hard every day -- in our schools, in our ... in our ... to bring that dream closer to every American.

Thank you.

New York State United Teachers

The people who help New York to learn.



Press Releases: Media Relations/Communications

NYSUT to Focus on Restoring Civility to the Classroom; Hillary Clinton, Schumer to Address 27th Representative Assembly

April 9, 1999

ALBANY, N.Y. April 9, 1999 - Delegates to New York State United Teachers' 27th annual Representative Assembly will be zeroing in on strategies to make schools more civil places - and to improve the teaching and learning environment as schools prepare students to meet higher academic standards.

The union will unveil a new survey on the eve of its three-day convention - to be held April 22-24 at the Niagara Falls Convention and Civic Center -- that shows students' attitudes and behavior have deteriorated over the last five years.

NYSUT President Thomas Y. Hobart Jr. said teachers are concerned that increasing profanity, disrespect and defiance of teachers will hinder the movement to raise standards and ready students to meet tougher Regents requirements.

"Especially at a time when students and teachers face the toughest academic hurdles ever, we can no longer tolerate a lack of civility and bad behavior in the classroom," Hobart said. The union president said delegates will recommend some tough strategies for dealing with classroom disruptions and creating a more productive learning atmosphere.

In between debates on school discipline and other issues, delegates will also hear from some of the leading voices on New York's education and political scene.

Highlighting the three-day convention will be a newcomer to state politics - First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, whose interest in a race for New York's soon-to-be-open U.S. Senate seat has captured national and international attention.

PLEASE NOTE:

Editors: Follow the link below for a schedule of New York State United Teachers 27th annual convention, which will be held April 22-24 at the Niagara Falls Convention and Civic Center. Reporters may pick up credentials in the Pub Room, which will serve as the Press Room. Advance interviews, phone interviews from the convention and copies of news releases, reports and speeches may be arranged through NYSUT's Media Relations/Communications Department, 518-459-5400, Ext. 6313 until April 20, and through the press office from April 21-24. The phone number for the convention press office will be made available in future media advisories before the convention.

SEE ALSO:

[Tentative Program](#)

[Niagara Falls Convention and Visitors Bureau](#)

[Niagara Falls Convention and Civic Center](#)

[COMING SOON: RA '99 Online](#)

CONTACT: Linda Rosenblatt, Director, or Denise Clapham or Carl Korn, Media Relations/Communications, 518-459-5400, EXT. 6313.

Clinton will receive the union's Albert Shanker Distinguished Service Award on Thursday night. Other dignitaries expected to address delegates include state Education Commissioner Richard Mills, Regents Chancellor Carl Hayden, Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., and American Federation of Teachers President Sandra Feldman. Newly elected U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., will deliver the keynote address Friday afternoon. Hobart will deliver his State of the Union message on Thursday evening.

NYSUT delegates are also expected to flex their political might in Albany as part of the union's all-out effort to provide students with the resources they need to successfully meet higher academic standards. Delegates will use NYSUT's electronic political action center to send a blizzard of e-mails and faxes to the governor, legislative leaders and their hometown lawmakers, urging them to reject proposed education cuts in the executive budget.

With no state budget in sight, NYSUT Executive Vice President Alan B. Lubin said the union's political activists would keep up the heat on lawmakers. Delegates will be pressing their hometown legislators to continue their critically needed support for school repairs, Teacher Centers and the Mentor-Teacher Intern program, and for SUNY, CUNY and the state's community colleges. Delegates will also be writing and faxing their federal representatives in Congress with messages of support for saving Social Security and Medicare. NYSUT health care workers will concentrate on winning whistle-blower protection for nurses and other health professionals in any "Bill of Rights" for patients in managed care.

Lubin said the governor's proposed spending plan would shortchange many local school districts, forcing them to choose between higher property taxes or cuts to important programs aimed at helping students pass Regents exams and graduate high school. "Some districts would have to do both," Lubin said. "This budget abandons the state's promise to provide quality early childhood programs and assistance for those students struggling to pass Regents exams. We intend to send state leaders a big message from our convention that these cuts are unacceptable."

In other convention action, NYSUT delegates - including teachers, other school employees, college faculty, health care workers and retirees --

will set the union's policies by debating and voting on more than 100 resolutions.

Among the important issues up for discussion are New York's new charter school law, the union's response to the Regents Task Force on Teaching, and efforts to close the achievement gap between children in affluent suburban districts and kids in poor, urban school districts. Delegates are also expected to throw NYSUT's support behind the Amityville Teachers Association's effort to end a racially discriminatory tracking system and endorse legislation to "strenuously punish" those who commit bias-related hate crimes.

NYSUT represents some 420,000 classroom teachers and other school employees; faculty and other professionals at the state's community colleges, State University of New York and City University of New York, and other education and health professionals. NYSUT is affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO.

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NITED TEACHERS

YOUR STATE UNITED TEACHERS

Affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
Representing teachers and other professionals, school-related personnel,
higher education professionals, health care professionals, and retirees

Mrs. Hillary Rodham Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

The New York State United Teachers, representing 400,000 workers in schools, universities and hospitals in New York State, respectfully asks you to consider being the recipient of the first Albert Shanker Award for Distinguished Service. This award, named after our late mentor and president Albert Shanker, has been presented in the past under the title NYSUT Distinguished Service Award, and was given to an individual who has made a special contribution to America's greatest institution - its public education system. (See enclosed brochure for previous recipients.) Your unwavering support for quality education and your advocacy for equal opportunity for all students is the foundation upon which you were selected to be offered the 1999 award.

This year's award, the eleventh that we have awarded in our 25 year history, will take on an even more significant meaning as we rename the award in honor of Al Shanker. Thus you will be the first recipient of the Albert Shanker Award for Distinguished Service, for which an original sculpture by one of our members has been commissioned.

It is my hope that I will be able to present the Award to you at our annual Representative Assembly, to be held April 22-24, 1999, at the Niagara Falls Convention & Civic Center in Niagara Falls, New York, and that following the presentation, you would deliver a major address to those attending. The NYSUT RA consists of 2,500 delegates and alternates representing over 400,000 members from our over 900 local affiliates. General Sessions are planned for the following times:

Thursday, April 22	8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Friday, April 23	10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon & 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 24	9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon & 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If, however, your schedule precludes your attending one of these sessions, we are willing to adapt our program to accommodate your needs.

Mrs. Clinton, on behalf of the officers, Board of Directors and the members of the New York State United Teachers, I am proud to offer you this award for all of your work on our behalf and on behalf of children and our society.

NYSUT

Thomas Y. Hoban, Jr., President

Alan B. Lubin, Executive Vice President • Antonio Cortes, First Vice President • Walter E. Duen, Jr., Second Vice President • Fred Neuman, Secretary-Treasurer

159 Wolf Road, Box 15008
Albany, NY 12212-5008
Phone: 518-459-5400 (BOLK)
Internet: www.nysut.org

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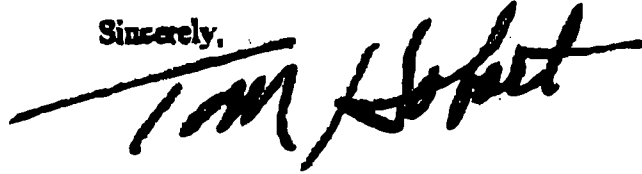
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Please have my assistant Tony Bifaro contacted at 1-518-459-5400, ext. 6465, relative to your availability and willingness to attend and accept this prestigious award.

Again, thank you for your continued support, leadership and vision.

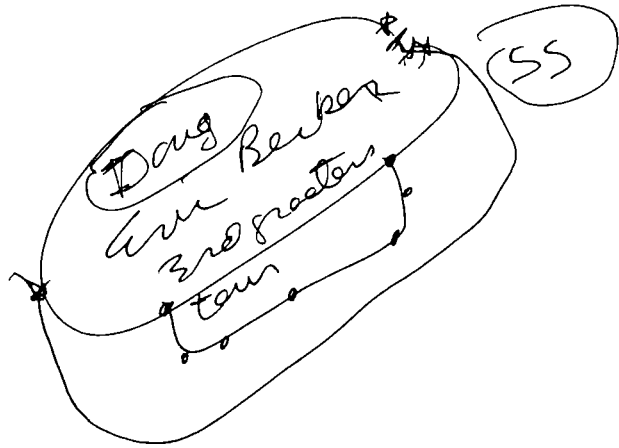
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hobart", with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Thomas Y. Hobart, Jr.
President

TYH/ajb/mr
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cc: Lia Smith, AFT COPE Director
Tony Bifaro
Dan Frasca



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NYSUT Hot Topics

NYSUT Policy on Charter Schools

Approved by NYSUT Board of Directors 3/12/99

New York's newly enacted charter school law differs significantly from earlier proposals advanced by Governor Pataki. NYSUT's insistence on the State Board of Regents' oversight, fiscal accountability, high standards, and collective bargaining never wavered. NYSUT has opposed the earlier charter school proposals on educational, labor and equity grounds and worked hard to make the new law as educationally sound as possible in today's political environment by building in many safeguards. The concessions achieved in this legislation have helped NYSUT move toward meeting the standards set by the AFT in its policy on charter schools. Under this policy, charter schools should:

- be tuition free,
- specifically prohibit private schools from converting to public schools,
- be open to all appropriate applicants, including students with special needs,
- be accountable to the public,
- adhere to the same standards that apply to all other public schools,
- use the same tests as other public schools, and make the results publicly available,
- include the right of employees to bargain collectively,
- be responsible for health and retirement costs to the same extent as other public schools,
- require the approval of the local school district,
- meet all state and federal health and safety standards, and
- be subject to sunshine laws.

The New York charter school law addresses many of these issues. However, NYSUT continues to have reservations about the impact of charter schools created under this statute. Evidence from across the country in states with charter school statutes similar to New York's demonstrates that charter schools are not "a magic solution" to long-term educational problems. Our concerns fall into three general areas:

- Funding,
- Academic Standards, and
- Representation Rights.

Recognizing its obligation to locals, members and public education, NYSUT will provide assistance and use its resources to:

1. Educate locals about the Charter Schools Act of 1998 by providing workshops for local leaders through the regional offices, at a Representative Assembly seminar in Niagara Falls, and at a statewide Charter School Conference in the fall of 1999.
2. Counsel and advise locals wishing to develop or support charter school

applications in their districts.

3. Assist locals in selecting proven educational programs and strategies for use in charter schools.
4. Review applications secured by locals through freedom of information requests, in order determine whether they comply with the statute and regulations.
5. Legally challenge applications that do not comply.
6. Help locals develop an information campaign for parents when their school district is considering a charter school application.
7. Monitor and assess educational outcomes in approved charter schools.
8. Provide financial expertise to monitor the fiscal operation of charter schools.
9. Assist locals in organizing employees in new charter schools within the jurisdiction of the local.
10. Provide, through Regional Offices, assistance in developing and negotiating contract language to protect members in potential charter school situations.
11. Address legislative changes to the current charter school law.

Individual locals must decide if, or how, to work with charter school initiatives within their districts. Locals are encouraged to contact their Regional Office so that NYSUT can assist those locals with strategies for use in union created or endorsed charter schools. Ultimately, the decision to support a charter school should be made on the basis of providing a quality education for all students (in charter schools as well as those who remain in the district public schools), protecting the rights and professionalism of employees, and supporting and promoting the effectiveness of public education.

Charter Schools: Internet Resources

US Department of Education Study of Charter Schools

<http://www.ed.gov/pubs/charter/>

National Charter School Finance Study

<http://www.aft.org/charterfinance/overview.htm>

A Study of Ten California Charter School Districts

<http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/ded.html>

Minnesota Charter Schools

<http://carei.coled.umn.edu/CharterSchools/MNevalFinal/Preface.html>

Charter School Research Web Site (links to completed state studies)

<http://csr.syr.edu>

New York State United Teachers
159 Wolf Road
Box 15008

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON
NEW YORK STATE UNITED TEACHERS
ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK
APRIL 22, 1999

Thank you Tom (Hobart, president of NYSUT) for that kind introduction -- but more for your courageous leadership of NYSUT over the years. I am deeply moved by the great honor that you are giving me here tonight. I want to acknowledge the rest of the leadership of New York State United Teachers: Alan Lubin, (executive vice president); Tony Cortese, (first vice president); Walter Dunn, (second vice president); Fred Newman, (secretary Treasurer). It's always a great pleasure to see Randy Weingarten (president of NYC's United Federation of Teachers). And I want to join all of you in recognizing Sandy Feldman's extraordinary commitment to both improving the working conditions for every AFT member -- and the quality of education for every student.

I am so pleased to join all of you here tonight, and to have this opportunity to thank you for what you do every single day to teach, inspire, and nurture our students: As classroom teachers and college and university faculty and staff; as school bus drivers; custodians; secretaries, and cafeteria workers; as teacher assistants and aides; nurses and health care technicians. Together, you literally hold the future of America in your hands.

are this conference -- tonight
This gathering ~~is a wonderful reflection~~ *is a wonderful reflection* reflects New York's ~~rich~~ *rich* history and tradition of people organizing for their rights, and moving this nation forward. Last summer, I visited the home of Kate Mullany in Troy -- who recognized the terrible working conditions and low wages of women garment workers in New York City -- and organized one of the first women's labor unions in the country. "You show me the women" -- she said brashly -- "and I'll turn them into organizers." And that's what she did. I went to the home of Harriet Tubman in Auburn -- known as the "Moses of her people" -- and honored her work ~~to lead~~ *the list of* hundreds of slaves into freedom. And many of us came together for the 150th anniversary of the women's rights convention in Seneca Falls last summer -- as we celebrated the birth of the women's movement.

Because
That trip was part of our efforts to draw attention to the historic sites and monuments that tell the story of this nation. ~~And~~ *we see* as we end one century -- and begin a new millennium -- we see even more clearly how critical it is to preserve that legacy for future generations. The theme of our White House millennium celebrations ~~is~~ *was chosen as* "Honor the past: Imagine the future." And that is what we are doing tonight as well -- as we celebrate the life and accomplishments of Al Shanker.

[section on Shanker -- and how he gave us a roadmap to imagine the future of education -- through higher standards; through and through demanding -- day after day -- that a world class education was the birth right of every American. He was there fighting for civil rights -- when UFT sent stations wagons to the south for voter registration; he was there to fight for collective bargaining -- always fighting for the underdog. And he was there -- in 1983 -- when the the publication of A Nation at Risk told us]

And the choice of Shanker as our host,

I've heard that when Al Shanker delivered a major speech -- there would always be a pool of people who would bet on how long he would speak. I hope there's not such a pool here tonight betting on how long I will speak. I know it's late. But I do want take a moment to talk about what we've been able to achieve in America's public schools over the past six years -- and the President's plan to build on that progress. Because to me -- so much of what we're still trying to do is based on a foundation that Al Shanker and many here tonight ~~have built~~ *helped to create.*

[section on education progress over the past six years -- and President's ESEA initiatives to give every child a world-class education. Also -- importance of passing Title I re-authorization -- which will protect the work and the good jobs of so many of your members -- including teachers aides and other school-related personnel.]

Today, we are living in a time of unprecedented prosperity and opportunity. Over the past six and a half years -- in no small part because of the hard work of the American people -- we have 18 million new jobs and the lowest inflation and unemployment rates in a generation. More families are moving from the dependency of welfare to the dignity of work. More young people are going to college. Crime is down and our neighborhoods are the safest they've been in decades.

But we know that this prosperity has not reached every family -- or touched every neighborhood. I recognize that unemployment is a major concern in this area -- and that too many families are struggling to make ends meet here in upstate New York and other regions across the state and the nation. There's much more we must do.

So we must seize these good times to help more parents meet their responsibilities at work and at home. And I know that child care is a concern for nearly every family in America. The President's balanced budget will help more working families pay for child care; boost the number of good after school programs; improve the safety and quality of care; and promote early learning.

We must seize on these good time to ensure more Americans get the high quality health care they deserve. That's why we must raise our voices and demand that Congress pass a Patient's Bill of Rights to protect all Americans in the age of managed care.

We must seize on these times to ensure that finally, men and women who do equal work get equal pay. We can't allow wage discrimination to shortchange the average working woman and her family by approximately \$4,000 a year. As many of you know there's a bill sponsored by Sen. Daschle and Rep. DeLauro that would strengthen our equal pay laws -- and I know we can count on your support.

And we must seize on these times to make sure that Social Security serves our children and grandchildren as well as it has served our parents and grandparents. Social Security reflects our deepest values -- our respect for our parents; our commitment to the disabled; and our belief that all Americans deserve to retire with dignity. In many ways, it's our family protection system. Medicare too is a crucial way we honor and care for our parents after a lifetime of hard

work. That's why we must all support the President's plan to dedicate 77 of our hard-earned surplus toward strengthening both of these programs for future generations.

Tonight -- as we celebrate the past -- and set our sights on the challenges of the future -- let's remind ourselves of what I believe is at the heart of what America stands for. It's not just that we've always had great generals or political leaders. Other nations have had them as well. It's not just that we've had great business leaders, or creative geniuses; other societies, too, have been enriched by their contributions throughout time. What I believe we've done here -- and which is our greatest strength -- is that we have empowered average men and women -- working men and women. We've given them a reason to believe that they too can make something out of their lives; that they can walk and live and work with dignity and confidence. That they -- and their children -- have a chance to live up to their fullest, God-given potential.

And we know that the surest road to lifting up ourselves -- and our nation -- is through education. Thank you for the work that all of you do to carry on that mission. As Al Shanker would say ---

Thank you.



About NYSUT



New York State United Teachers

The people who help New York to learn.

See also:

[Board of Directors](#)[Regional Offices](#)[Officers](#)[Programs, Services,
Publications](#)[NYSUT Home Page](#)

About NYSUT

For more information. Detailed info on NYSUT's many programs, services and publications is available online at the home page of NYSUT's Public Relations Office.

Who We Are.

We are more than 400,000 people who work in, or are retired from, New York's schools, colleges, and healthcare facilities. We are classroom teachers, college and university faculty and professional staff, school bus drivers, custodians, secretaries, cafeteria workers, teacher assistants and aides, nurses and healthcare technicians.

NYSUT is a federation of more than 900 local unions, each representing its own members. We are part of the American Federation of Teachers, the fastest growing union in the United States. We are also part of organized labor - the AFL-CIO - and of Education International, with more than 20 million members world wide,

We range in size from tiny locals of fewer than 10 members to the United Federation of Teachers, which represents 130,000 teachers and other school employees in New York City.

What We Do

We are dedicated to improving not only our working conditions, but also our professions. We're united in a common commitment to improve the quality of education and healthcare for the people of New York.

How We Work

NYSUT is a grassroots organization. We elect the people who lead our local unions and or state and national affiliates. We elect delegates to a state convention - the Representative Assembly - who discuss issues and set policy that determines the programs and services that NYSUT provides us.

Our NYSUT officers, elected by the Representative Assembly, oversee a staff of more than 300 that carries out the union's business. The convention delegates also elect a Board Of Directors, which determines policy between conventions.