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# VSTA E-Newsletter

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## These Girls Are on Fire!



On Monday, June 10th, student athletes, coaches and parents enjoyed an evening at the Stewart Manor Country Club to celebrate the annual Athletics Awards Dinner. Among the special guests of the evening were the Valley Stream South Women's Class A State Championship soccer team and their coach, South special education teacher, Demetri Adrahtas. The women's team took Long Island by storm and just took home win after win resulting at the ultimate win at the NYS level!

VSTA was proud to present the South Girls Varsity Soccer team with New York State Championship rings at the dinner. Earlier this school year, VSTA passed a policy that we would award rings to all athletes who win a State Championship. Coach Adrahtas said, "the kids worked hard for a dream season and state championship that will echo in eternity. Now, thanks to the union, they have a beautiful keepsake to forever honor and remember their bond and achievement".

Female track athletes (pictured below), Juel Charles (North), Deanna Martin (South) and Chibugo Obichere (South) are also Spring State Champions and VSTA looks forward to ordering and presenting their rings as well!



# Valley Stream Teachers' Association

Valley Stream, New York - Local 1633

[www.vsteachers.org](http://www.vsteachers.org)

Richard Adams

*President*

Noele Villa

*Vice President - Communication*

Patrice Davidson

*Vice President - Membership*

Joseph Mangini

*Vice President—Operations*

## *I've Got Teacher Attendance On My Mind...*

As I wrap up my 19th year teaching here in Valley Stream, I keep hearing, especially this time of year, my fellow teachers talking about attendance... No doubt this is a discussion at the District level as well. I don't know the exact percentages, when it comes to the age of our faculty, but I do know that in many buildings, we are a faculty with children, nieces, nephews and more, who are of school age themselves. Perhaps the rise in teacher absenteeism is directly correlated to the ages of our own children and close family members? Is that a bad thing? To me the answer is and always will be, no! As a mother of three children, I made a pact, with myself of course, that I will never miss a milestone ceremony, celebration etc. in my child's life. These moments are fleeting. I'll never forget when my youngest asked me why I leave to go to work all day with other peoples' children... that was a tough one, but making the choice to take days, granted to us, is one that I will always make.

Life happens and regardless of what career we are in, when life calls, we have to answer, even when we don't always want to! Sadly, we are also no strangers to the down times that can also come our way. The days we take aren't always celebratory. Even though supposedly the State will be looking at numbers too, we have to remember that we are in a business of human beings. Hopefully we can all find the balance we need when it comes to our work and our need to support those around us. As my former principal, Steve Lando always said, "family first". And with that, I wish you all a beautiful, restful summer!

# VSTA Wishes Its Retirees Farewell

The following VSTA members are retiring!

We wish you well as you head into this exciting next chapter of your lives!

Mary Reicherter - Central

Maryjean Burke - North

Barbara Madigan—South

Michele Marcus—South

Fran Maniscalco - South

Bob Labarbera - South

Anne Marie Mante - North

Gertrude Marrero - Memorial

Mary Ellen Vella - Wheeler

Gaston Weisz -Howell

Mindy Berlin -Willow

Enrico Perciballi -Wheeler

Jayne Carey -Wheeler

Thomas DiGiorgio -Dever

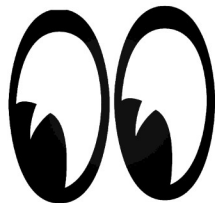
Jayne Hartten -Dever

Katherine Lallier -Carbonaro

Elen LEvenburg -District Office

Rene Herman -Forest

*“Retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of the open highway.” – Author Unknown*



**Looking for retiree and teacher input!**

**Email the VSTA Newsletter:**

**Caldo202@gmail.com**





## Protect Your Loved Ones with Union-Endorsed Benefits

**Insurance...** it's often the type of product you hope to never have to utilize. In the event you do need it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your needs and those of your loved ones.

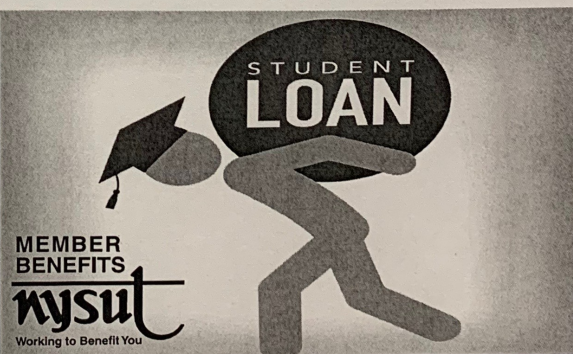
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### *The Power of the Union*

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The **"Power of the Union"** should serve as a steadfast reminder to all NYSUT members that we are your advocate. Unlike when purchasing products available to the general public, NYSUT Member Benefits is here if you ever have any issues or concerns with our endorsed programs. You aren't just a member to us... you are part of our union family.

**Member Benefits is here to offer assistance with the student loan crisis. Visit our website for more information.**



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