INFORMATION, NEWS AND SUPPORT

SPEAK OUT!

PITTSFORD DISTRICT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION



PDTA Ambassadors Transform a Challenge into an Opportunity

Dwayne Cerbone, President

Unions across our nation are preparing

for what many fear may be one of the greatest attacks on collective bargaining in the history of the labor movement.

As I have discussed in previous Speak Out articles, the Supreme Court is expected to reach a decision on the Janus v. AFSCME case this spring or early summer. The outcome and scope of this decision is yet unknown but the commonly held belief is that it will abolish the ability for unions to charge non-members, who continue to benefit from the work of the union, agency fee dues. This will unilaterally impose harmful "Right to Work" (RTW) conditions on labor organizations across all fifty states.

Historically, this action is known to weaken unions by significantly reducing membership, dividing the workers, and limiting union resources.

Members in these RTW states are strategically approached by well-funded organizations with tempting offers to save money on their union dues by withdrawing their membership. They further seduce these workers by

stating that they can still benefit from the union's negotiations and services without having to pay a dime. This is evidently the same strategy these groups are preparing to implement in our state.

Although their premise may at first seem valid, it is heinous, manipulative and short sighted. These organizations do not intend or desire to benefit you, the employee trying to simply do what is best for you and your family. Rather, they represent solely the interests of their greedy financial backers.

Unions cannot survive very long in such a divisive environment. Our ability to negotiate and represent member interests is granted by the cumulative strength demonstrated by our unity and shared purpose. Wages, benefits, working conditions, pensions and other union-gained provisions for the working class are eroded or completely eliminated when RTW conditions are imposed.

Luckily, we also learn from these RTW states that when unions prepare, educate members of these tactics, and actively engage with members they can not only survive but actually gain



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strength as members and leadership overcome the complacency which commonly creeps into any highly successful organization.

PDTA is proudly functioning at 100% membership and our goal is to retain every member as together we rise above this challenge, PDTA Strong.

I am hopeful each of you personally experience and recognize the value our PDTA, NYSUT, and affiliate unions provide relative to your wages, health care benefits, representation, evaluation practices, work place conditions, contractual provisions, advocacy, member benefits, your pension, and so many other significant provisions.

We are proud of our efforts thus far, yet simultaneously recognize there are things we can, and should, do better to serve our members. As we prepare as an organization to address the challenges we face, your Representative Assembly (RA) has been busy organizing and training with a useful digital tool, the

Continued next page...

Contract of the second

Board of Education Updates

Stephanie Warchol, VP for Administration

One of the main responsibilities of my position is to attend the Board of

Education (BOE) meetings.

One reason is to stay informed on District decisions and policies. Another benefit is that I can then report back to PDTA on matters impacting our members. Over the past several months I have had the opportunity to sit in on presentations on enrollment projections, instructional services including technology and data & assessment, support services, special education, student services and school budgets. These presentations helped to paint a picture (sorry for the Art reference) of the roles and responsibilities of the different departments within PCSD.

Woven around the presentations I previously mentioned, the budget work sessions also began in February. Superintendent Pero has stated multiple times that the proposed District 2018-19 draft budget is financially in a much better place then the proposed budget last year. In fact, over the course of the three work sessions held so far, the gap has gotten even smaller. As of Darrin

Kenney's (Assistant Superintendent for Business) presentation on March 12, we currently have a deficit of \$733,021.

While this seems like a high number, a lot of it is attached to the Governor's proposed New York State budget. For example, our deficit currently includes \$463,000 which is needed to support the Special Education. Extended School Year summer program. Historically, this program has been funded by the NYS budget, but in the Governor's proposed budget he has reduced funding by that amount. While many think the funding will be present in the Governor's final budget, the District has planned accordingly. The New York State budget is due on April 1, 2018, however many anticipate that the Governor will not meet this deadline.

I have gathered the information above, and for the bullet points below, from the most recent District presentations. Please follow this link to view the entire presentation

- The Superintendent has stated that the District is NOT seeking to override the tax cap.
- The property tax levy is currently at 2.90% (at tax cap).
- Total State Aid has been reduced

- from last year by \$192,823 or -0.81%.
- The District is seeking a 2.69% or \$3,497,991 increase over last year's budget.
- According to the Superintendent, Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) is not currently included in the proposed budget. The District is ready to move forward with plans for FDK if the Governor's final budget, due on April 1, includes the necessary aid as a result of advocacy efforts.
- Employee Benefits make up \$39,002,734 (62.83% of that is Health & Dental) of total District budget.
- Health Insurance has ranged from 4% to 13% with an average of 7%. This is far below the community rated plans and from the onset the plan costs less.

For the most current budget information, please visit: https://www.pittsfordschools.org/Page/20182

Upcoming important dates: April 16th the Board adopts the Superintendent's Budget, May 7th will be the Public Budget Hearing, May 15th will be the Budget Vote and Board Election.

Cerbone continued...

miniVAN app, to facilitate our upcoming membership engagement process.

Members of the RA along with volunteers from our Membership Committee and Political Action Committee were recently trained as PDTA Ambassadors. In this role, they are prepared to engage each of you in a conversation about our union and how we can better serve your interests as we consider the local ramifications of the Janus decision.

Your building level Ambassador will be in touch within the next few weeks to set a mutually convenient time for a brief conversation. We trust you will take this opportunity to recommit your membership along with your mutually invested colleagues, despite any changes in membership regulations. Simultaneously, we will take this opportunity to collect and/or update appropriate contact information for every member by June 1st.

Legal advisors have informed us that it is possible our methods and pace of communication may be altered shortly after the decision is reached. For your benefit, we must have the ability to freely communicate with each one of you through personal mobile and email platforms.

We understand and respect if you do not desire to share this information at this time. I can assure you, that this form of communication will be implemented judiciously and that your personal information will not be shared or used for anything other than PDTA and NYSUT communication.

I suspect this may seem strange to engaged unionists, but I, along with your tremendous PDTA leadership team, are energized and excited by the opportunities this challenge provides.

If at the end of the transition we are "forced" to assure that every member who commits to our Association does so as a result of clearly recognized and freely selected personal benefits, it can only strengthen and empower our work. Most importantly, we are honored to work beside each of you as we strive to remain **PDTA Strong!**

How Well Do You Know Your Contract?



Kim Chesko, Resolution Specialist

It was a fierce competition for our Contract Scavenger Hunt game! A number of

professional staff, paraprofessional staff and auxiliary staff participated and did a great job. My thanks to those that participated in indulging my geeky love of contract and games. Here are the questions again, with the answers:

Question 1. What is the amount of the longevity award for a paraprofessional **member** employee who has been employed for a minimum of 10 years or has at least 11,880 continuous hours of seniority?

Answer: on page 48, \$500 (section 25-5)

Question 2: How many days are in the work year for a 10 month auxiliary member employee?

Answer: on page 68, 200 days less 11 holidays during the work year.

(section 59-1)

Question 3: In the 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 school years, what is the additional amount (above the standard \$1935 provision) that shall be paid to each professional staff member who has completed a graduate degree?

Answer: on page 10, \$210 (section 1-2-7)

Question 4: What is the amount of tuition reimbursement for paraprofessional members with a minimum of 3 full years' Pittsford experience for undergraduate study that leads to a Bachelors or graduate study that leads to a teacher certification?

Answer: on page 54, ½ tuition reimbursement (section 34-2)

Question 5: What is the length of the uninterrupted lunch period provided for all employees?

Answer: on page 30, 40 minutes

for professional staff (section 5-1-1); on page 48, 30 minutes for paraprofessional staff (section 25-7); on page 62, 30 minutes for auxiliary staff (section 48-2)

Thank you again to all who participated in our Contract Scavenger Hunt! All correct responses were entered into the drawing, and the winner of the gift card is <u>Michelle Walsh</u> from Jefferson Road.

If you haven't refreshed your knowledge of your contract lately, please give it a skim! Remember, it has 3 sections: Professional Staff Section starts on page 9, right after the Preamble; the Paraprofessional, School Nurse, Health Office Assistant and Tutor Section begins in page 45; and the Auxiliary Staff Section begins on page 61. It is easily accessible from our PDTA website under the Documents button. Happy reading!





BARB SHAPIRO SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

The Pittsford District Teachers Association, along with the Pittsford District Retired Teachers Association, is offering two \$1,500.00 scholarships, one to a graduating senior at Mendon and one to a graduating senior at Sutherland. This award is intended for students who have demonstrated leadership during high school, and preference will be given to seniors considering careers in education. The PDTA will present these scholarships at the high schools' awards ceremonies in June.

To apply, students need to submit an application form, a transcript, and two letters of recommendation by Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Interested students may obtain application forms from their counseling offices or from www.pdta.org.

Professional Learning Updates

Julie Barker, Teacher Center Director

WinCap Web provides a great deal of information for staff members related to certifications, completed PD/CTLE hours, and completion of hours as required by our contract. It is helpful to know what information is available and how to access it so you can answer many questions that come up. Here is a quick guide to navigating WinCap Web and accessing the information housed there.

My Activities

This page houses all of your completed activities from 2008 to the present. You can filter the information in several different ways and print out a transcript of your PD records.

My Contractual Units Summary

This page shows the number of hours professional staff have completed toward the PCSD contractual requirement for professional learning. All full-time professional staff members are required to complete 12 hours per year in activities identified as "Professional Learning Initiatives." Activities listed in the Electives catalog

do not count toward the contractual requirement.

All professional staff members should check this page a few times a year to be sure they are on track to complete the contractual requirement. The deadline for completing these hours is May 31st each year. If you have not yet met your contractual requirement for PD for this school year, you should be enrolling in activities through WinCap PD as soon as possible.

My Certifications

This page identifies your certificate type [i.e. Permanent, Professional, or Initial] and includes the begin and end dates for your five year registration cycle with SED. Professional certificate holders can use this page to track the number of CTLE hours they have completed during their five year period. CTLE hours track all activities completed through the Teacher Center including those activities that take place during the work day such as Superintendent's Conference Days.

All Permanent and Professional certificate holders will need to renew

their certificate every five years through the TEACH system

using the date identified in WinCap PD.

Employee Self-Service

Employee Self-Service provides access to your attendance balances, paychecks, 'year to date' totals, demographic information, position, and salary notices. You should check this page periodically to track your sick days and pay stubs to be sure the information is accurate. Checking your demographic information is also important, especially if you have moved recently or changed your phone number.

As always, if you have questions related to professional learning or your hours in WinCap PD, you can contact Robin Dixson or myself in the Teacher Center.

Happy Spring! Julie

Don't Forget!! Complete all required 12 hours of PD for Professional Staff by May 31st.

STUDY GRANTS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our current contract agreement has a provision for a \$5000 study grant to be used by staff members for professional development activities taking place during recess periods.

The purpose of study grants is to provide staff members interested in professional development an opportunity for reimbursement of expenses that would not be covered by other methods such as tuition reimbursement, conference allocations, materials or curriculum writing.

The Study Grants Committee, comprised of teachers and administrators, review all study grant applications and determines the distribution of the funds. Distribution of the funds will be determined by the relevance and anticipated value of the proposed studies. Applications for study grants for the summer recess must be completed and submitted to the PDTA Office no later than April 15th.

Please include copies of any brochures, information or official course documentation of your activity, including an itemized breakdown of costs. This documentation helps in the review process. Remember that study grants can only be awarded for professional development activities that take place during recess periods.

Study Grant applications are available on the PDTA website, <u>www.PDTA.org</u> or by contacting Julie Barker , PDTA Professional Growth Chair, at x1075 or via email.

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Political Action



Karen Grace

Teachers NYSUT converged Albany

NYSUT's education lobby days were held on March 5th & 6th. As PDTA Political Action Chair, I attend, along with hundreds of other volunteer teacher lobbyists from across the state. We all shared our front-line experiences to help make the case for the following legislative issues and recommendations:

- School Aid: Support an increase of \$1.5 billion in general purpose school aid
- APPR: Enact statutory changes to the education law to return teacher evaluations back to local control with NO State
- Amend the Tax Cap: 2% or CPI, whichever is greater and Eliminate Supermajority requirement!

Mandates!

Fund Teacher Centers:

- \$40 million in funding
- **Anti-Discrimination Protections:** Adopt GENDA act and proposals that would extend human rights law anti-discrimination to public education institutions

VOTE-COPE

- VOTE-COPE stands for Voice of Teachers for Education (VOTE) and Committee on Political Education (COPE).
- Support for candidates for public office is NOT determined by party affiliation but by a politician's record of support for union members' issues. Regardless of party, the critical issue is the level of commitment the candidate has demonstrated to union members and to quality service.

- VOTE-COPE activities are funded voluntary entirely through contributions from members. No dues money is used.
- During election campaigns, NYSUT calls on members to help, especially in telephone bank solicitations for voter registration and to get out the vote for NYSUTendorsed candidates, however, VOTE-COPE helps us get our message out on a larger scale.
- NYSUT sends rebates to local unions based on a percentage (up to 40 percent) of the contributions VOTE-COPE receives from that local union's members. Those rebates can be used in local activities such as school board races and for passage of school

budgets.

PDTA continues to be a leading local contributor with roughly 45% of our membership contributing. PDTA will continue to work toward 100% membership contributions to VOTE-COPE this year.



The VOTE-COPE campaign will begin soon! If you have not contributed in the past... please do so! If you already contribute we thank you and ask that you consider increasing your contribution this year. Election season will soon be upon us and we need to continue to have the ability to have our voices heard politically!!!!

Congresswoman **Louise Slaughter**

"Today, the people of New York lost a true champion for working families. Congresswoman Slaughter represented the embodiment of public service, but she was so much more than that.~

- NYSUT President Andy Pallotta

It is with a heavy heart that I add this segment to my Speak Out article.

I was fortunate enough to have met

and discussed educational & social justice issues with Congresswoman Louise Slaughter. I must admit, I was enamored by her presence and was truly inspired by her work. She was always thoughtful in her approach, was a masterful listener and above all, she was tenacious when it came to taking action and getting things done for the greater good of society and humanity.

Her efforts impacted countless unionists, not only in NY state, but around the country. I know for me, it truly was an honor to learn from her



and I have no doubt that her legacy will be carried on through the efforts of the many strong unionists she influenced. I thank you for your contributions to the greater good Louise and want you to know that we will continue the fight! - KG

MONDAY, MONDAY

Monday afternoons are reserved for PDTA meetings If you are a teacher leader, please avoid scheduling meetings on Monday afternoons to enable our PDTA leaders to attend their meetings representing you and our member's interests. Please share this information with any non-member who desires to schedule a meeting that conflicts with this agreement. Thank you!



K.G. preparing to meet with legislators for NYSUT's Committee of 100.



SRP NewslinkLorinda Spring

Monday, April 23 is our full-day Superintendent's

Conference Day. All paraprofessionals will be at Barker Road Middle School for the whole day. We will listen to a keynote speaker in the morning and attend workshops of your choice in the afternoon. More details will follow in the coming weeks.

Para Academy- The following are upcoming workshops that you may sign up for through WinCap Web. These professional learning sessions are great opportunities for SRPs to gain knowledge and learn strategies to use in the classroom. You will be paid an hourly rate of \$17.00 per hour.

- Adult and Child CPR/AED Training-3/20 or 4/10
- CPI Refresher 2017-2018- 3/22 (AM), 3/22 (PM), 4/17 or 5/02
- What the ELL? Language Acquisition 101- 5/21
- Working Effectively with Adults in the Classroom- 4/30

If you are interested in working over the summer in the Special Education Extended School Year Program, please apply online through the link that was sent to your school email or through the district website. The program runs for 6 weeks from July 9- August 17. Preference will be given to those who commit to the full six weeks.

Reminder: If you are retiring at the end of this school year, you need to submit your letter to Human Resources by Monday, April 2 in order to receive the Career Award if you are eliqible.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please contact me through email at Lorinda_spring@pittsford. monroe.edu or by phone at x3372.

BUILDING NEWS

BRMS:

Raina Sulzbach's step mom passed away in March

SHS:

Brian Regan's father died in March.

TRES:

SRP Mari Wolk welcomes the birth of her first grandchild, Henry Jack on January 19, 2018.



Speak Out is edited and assembled by Brian Regan.

Your feedback is welcome at brian_regan@pittsford.monroe.edu

March 2018 Speak Out!

Public Relations

Kelly Jordan

Dear colleagues,

As spring is approaching, want to remind you about our PDTA Barb Shapiro Student We are so proud Scholarship. that each year we award one graduate from each high school a scholarship for \$1,500. If you know any students that are interested in pursuing the field of education, please encourage them to apply for this scholarship. The application can be found on the PDTA website (under the Documents section) and the deadline to apply is April 24, 2018.

It is thanks to our wonderful membership that we can offer these student scholarships. You may recall that we raised \$831 from our raffle baskets at the Benefits Fair in the fall to contribute to this scholarship Now we will turn our fundraising efforts toward our spring Chicken BBQ. Please see the flyer for more information or talk to one of the PR committee reps in your building. Thank you for your support of our scholarship campaign!

Your Public Relations committee members are:

AC Joe Juzwiak
JR Jen Terenzi
MC Trisha Sullivan
PR Barb Lynch
TR Radhika Ramesh

BRMS Peggy Carr
 CPMS Chriscy Doc

CRMS Chrissy Doggett

MHS Jim Hedler

 SHS Wendy Walker, Vicki McCutchon



<u>Join Us!</u>





CHICKEN BBQ Fundraiser

May 15th 3-7pm at BRMS. VOTE, then EAT! All Proceeds Benefit PDTA Student Scholarships.

\$10 Advance \$12 Day of Event
Includes: 1/2 chicken, salt potatoes, mac salad, dinner roll, utensils.
(from King's Catering, Canandaigua)

Order ahead through building PDTA rep and pick up meal in the BRMS parking lot. Make checks payable to PDTA. Questions? Contact Kelly_Jordan@pittsford.monroe.edu





We are excited to announce that PDTA President Dwayne Cerbone, and PDTA VP for Administration Stephanie Warchol, have been accepted into the 2018 NYSUT Leadership Institute! This program focuses

on leadership topics and skills, NYSUT and the national labor movement, local advocacy, contract negotiations, and various other Union related topics. Their studies will begin this summer in Albany, NY.

Your Reps:

Building Representatives:

Allen Creek: Dennise Zobel
Jefferson Road: Julie Shaw
Mendon Center: Jill Drake
Park Road: Karen Socker
Thornell Road: Lisa Mauger
Barker Road: Kristen Dolan
Calkins Road: Melissa Althouse
Mendon High School:
Dave Larson
Sutherland High School:
Lynne Drake
SRP Representative:
Lorinda Spring

Assistant Building Representatives:

Kathy Rudd, AC
Elizabeth Kramer, JR
Patty Mayer and
Hendrina Schindeler, MCE
Jill Pink, PR
Greg Bischoping, TR
Karen Grace, Grace Kemp,
Tammy Cole, BRMS
Chrissy Doggett, Claudia Foti,
CRMS
Cindy Merrifield, Tom Kennell,
Paula Fink, MHS
Marc Hellems, Brian Schafer,
Amanda Marshall, SHS

SRP Representatives:

Lisa Backscheider, SHS Radhika Ramesh, TR Constance Bader, BRMS Suzanne Kaier-Tuttle, MC Maryanne Maland, JR Sherry Tontarski, MC Vicki McCutchon, SHS Tracy Anderson, PR

Thank You MEMBERS!

PDTA is at 100% membership!!

We thank our members for the great work you do, for valuing the work of our Association, and for committing with us to move forward in unity.

SPEAK OUT! Ads

You and your families are invited to place ads in future issues of SPEAK OUT! Rates for Members and Family (price is for one issue):

Above Rates are for copy ready advertising. If additional design or set-up is required, an additional fee of \$25 will be assessed. Space for ads is limited per issue. Checks should be made out to PDTA and mailed to the PDTA Office. Ad PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT PDTA CHARITABLE EFFORTS.

Send copy and questions directly to brian regan@pittsford.monroe.edu.

Your monthly bills won't stop if you become unable to work

Insurance is the type of product that you hope you never have to utilize. In the event that you need to use it, though, it's important to have the insurance product that best meets your individual needs.

The NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed voluntary Disability Insurance Plan -- provided by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company -- provides valuable income replacement benefits to help meet your living expenses if you become partially or totally disabled and are unable to work.



Disability insurance can be customized to fit within your budget and still provide peace of mind until you are able to get back on your feet and return to work. Applications for the new NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Disability Insurance Plan are now available, with coverage effective dates on or after Jan. 1, 2018 from the Plan Administrator, Mercer Consumer.

For more information and/or to get an application, visit *memberbenefits.nysut.org* or call **800-626-8101** for specific information about this program.

Call to Action: Proposals requested for NYSUT Educator's Voice



New York State's classrooms are among the most diverse in the nation. In recognition of this, NYSUT is currently seeking article proposals on **"Culturally-Responsive Teaching"** for consideration in its annual edition of *Educator's Voice*, a *Journal of Best Practices in Education*. The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2018.

Do you have a project or practice that works well in your classroom, something you are passionate about and would like to share with other educators across the state? This is a great opportunity to write about it and become published in NYSUT's member journal, a publication created by NYSUT members for NYSUT members. No previous experience is needed nor do you need to be a professional writer to be published in *Educator's Voice*.

Once accepted, authors receive a great deal of editorial support and writing guidance throughout the year-long publication cycle. The result is a professional, research-based publication that can be shared with your colleagues and used for professional development. Authors or author teams can collaborate across schools or with partners in higher education; at least one author must be a NYSUT or affiliate member.

For more information and/or to download the author submission form, visit http://www.nysut.org/educatorsvoice.

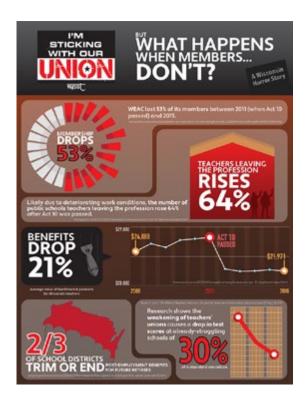
Previous editions of this publication are available at https://www.nysut.org/resources/special-resources-sites/educators-voice.



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.

Mar./Apr. '18





Cut and Keep Reminders

SRP and Auxiliary Staff retirement notification for Career Award Eligibility:

- SRPs who meet the contractual provisions can retire at any time between November 1 and March 31 with the career award.
- To be eligible for the career award, notice of retirement is required by April 1 for an end of school year retirement.
- If notice is not received by April 1, it is assumed that an SRP will be finishing the school year and working through October 31 of the following school year in order to be eligible for the career award.

Pro-Rated Health Fund:

- Full-time staff members who are not on the payroll as of October 1, but who are on the payroll before February 1 of the school year, shall be eligible for a pro-rated portion of the health fund, according to the schedule found within the contract
- In order to receive this prorated contribution, staff members must fill out and submit the "Request for Prorated Health Fund Benefit" form found on www.pdta.org by March 1 of the school year.

Employee Assistance:

The long winter months can be difficult. Please know you have a confidential and free service available
to you through the Associates in Employee Assistance for this or any personal need. PLEASE CALL
AHEAD TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT at 585-383-4478 or call toll free 877-327-2278.

PD Requirement:

• If you are a certified professional staff member, please remember your contractual 12 hour obligation for professional development! All PD must be completed by May 31.

FDK Petition:

• If you haven't already done so, please consider signing the <u>Change.org petition</u> asking New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to support funding for Full Day Kindergarten in the PCSD.

March 2018 Speak Out!



YMCA CAMP CORY presents



Kickball Tournament Scholarship Fundraiser

Uniting Kids, Families & Communities

In partnership with:
Pittsford Central Schools & The Urban-Suburban Interdistrict Transfer Program

Elementary

Middle

High

Adult/
Non-student

Saturday, May 12, 2018 5:00–8:30pm Pittsford Mendon High School

472 Mendon Road, Pittsford, NY 14534

Register before April 12!

Register In-Person: All Pittsford Schools Main Office





\$15
Ticket/T-Shirt
Combo

\$5 Pre-Sale
\$8 at Event
5 years & under
FREE







campcory.org

rich.morgan@rochesterymca.org

Registration forms and more information at PDTA.ORG.