

FEDERATION FOCUS

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
NEEDS SURVEY



May Focus--Fill out the Federation's Professional Learning Needs Survey and register for the Federation's Retirement & Financial Planning session (if interested).

Professional Learning Needs Survey: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/QjHujivkZM> | Retirement & Financial Planning Registration: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/QmLOFC6MKc>

RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL
PLANNING REGISTRATION



YOUR FEDERATION AT WORK

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

As another school year comes to a close, we want to take a moment to recognize the incredible dedication shown by school employees across our district. From the classroom to the cafeteria, the front office to transportation, and everywhere in between, your work has made a lasting impact on students and families throughout this year.

May is filled with appreciation days and recognition weeks, including Teacher Appreciation Week and celebrations honoring many of the employees who help keep our schools running each day. While a day or even a week could never fully express our gratitude, we hope every school employee knows how valued and appreciated you truly are. The work you do helps create brighter futures for our students and our community.

MEET KELLY



FEDERATION SPOTLIGHT

Executive Council Secretary, St. Tammany Federation | Paraprofessional, Cypress Cove Elementary | Former Teacher, Chahta Ima Elementary

We are proud to spotlight Kelly Giewat for her dedication to students, school employees, and our Federation. As Secretary of the Executive Council and a paraprofessional at Cypress Cove Elementary, Kelly consistently steps up to support our members and strengthen our organization.

After many years in the classroom as a teacher, Kelly transitioned this year into a paraprofessional role, bringing with her valuable experience and a unique perspective that helps build understanding across classifications. Her commitment to public education and to supporting school employees is evident in everything she does.

Known for being encouraging, spirited, dependable, and organized, Kelly is always eager to help wherever needed. Whether assisting with committees, Federation projects, or events, she consistently shows up with a positive attitude and a willingness to serve others. She is a strong advocate for teachers and school employees alike, and we are grateful for the leadership, encouragement, and support she brings to our Federation each day.

Know a member who should be in the spotlight? Submit a nomination here: <https://tinyurl.com/FedSpotlight> (you can also nominate yourself).



FEDERATION BY THE NUMBERS

Stats for the month of April:

- **33**-Just Cause Conferences represented
- **20**-STPSB New employees welcomed and oriented to the CBA and dental benefits
- **287**-Phone calls handled (1 minute or longer)
- **Countless**-Emails, research hours, reports, and member advocacy behind the scenes

**In the month of March we had one week with 17 Just Causes which is now the record for most JCs in one week.*

UPCOMING DATES

May 18: SLP Appreciation Day
May 21: Last Day for Students (1/2 day)
May 22: Teacher Work Day
May 25: Memorial Day
June 2: Retirement & Financial Planning Professional Learning (6-8)



DON'T FORGET

DENTAL TIP OF THE MONTH

Provided by Delta Dental, our Federation dental partner. Through collective bargaining and our relationship with the school system, all employees have access to dental coverage at no cost. Taking advantage of preventive care, like regular cleanings and checkups, helps maintain long-term health and avoid costly procedures.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and taking care of your physical and oral health can also support your mental well-being.

Healthy routines like getting enough rest, staying hydrated, eating balanced meals, maintaining regular dental visits, and practicing good oral hygiene can help you feel healthier overall, both physically and mentally.

As another school year comes to a close, remember to take care of yourself, too. Small healthy habits can make a big difference over time.

👉 [Learn more through Delta Dental's Healthy Mouth, Healthy You booklet.](#)

<https://www1.deltadentalins.com/content/dam/ddins/en/pdf/wellness-calendar/connection-oral-health.pdf>

MEMBER BENEFIT SPOTLIGHT

After a busy school year, summer can be the perfect time to relax, recharge, and plan a getaway.

Union Plus offers members savings of up to 50% on hotels and travel.

Book your next stay:
<https://hotels.unionplus.org/>

Need a rental car, attractions, or tours to complete your trip? Explore additional travel discounts here:

<https://www.unionplus.org/benefits/travel>

FEDERATION QUICK TIP

As schools begin preparing for the next school year, now is a good time to review important Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) procedures related to school events and duty schedules.

Section 6:01 – Assistance at School Events (page 37) addresses Open House and Meet & Greet expectations for certificated employees. While employees are required to attend either the annual Open House or Meet & Greet at the school(s) they service, Meet & Greet scheduling is determined by faculty vote at each site and may be held during the teacher workday or after school hours.

Section 6:06 – Duty Schedule (page 38) outlines the Duty Schedule Committee process. Duty schedules are developed with input from a committee appointed by the Federation Building Representative to support fair and equitable distribution of duties. If paraprofessionals are included in the duty schedule, the committee must also include paraprofessional representation.

TECH TIPS FROM ENER SYSTEMS

Ener Systems, our trusted IT partner and neighbor, helps protect Federation operations and member data every day. Known for their innovative work in technology and media production, including projects featured on Amazon Prime, Ener provides valuable insight to help keep your information secure both at work and at home.

AI tools are becoming more common in workplaces and daily life, but using them responsibly is important to help protect personal and workplace information.

Essential guidelines for using AI safely:

- Never enter sensitive or personal information into public AI tools
- Use trusted and approved AI platforms when possible
- AI can help generate ideas and drafts, but humans should always review the final product
- Assume information entered into public AI tools may be stored externally

AI can be a helpful tool for saving time and improving efficiency, but responsible use helps protect both personal and workplace data.

Bottom line:

Use AI as a tool to assist your work, not replace your judgment.

👉 [For more details, read Ener Systems' full blog.](#)

<https://www.enersystems.com/blog/ai-tools-are-everywhere.heres-how-to-use-them-without-making-a-mess/>

HIGGINBOTHAM WELLNESS

As another school year comes to a close, summer can be a great time to reset and focus on your overall well-being. Small healthy habits can make a big difference in both physical and mental wellness.

Simple ways to support your well-being:

- Stay hydrated throughout the day
- Prioritize rest and healthy sleep habits
- Spend time outdoors or stay active
- Make time for activities that help you recharge

Taking care of yourself is important, especially after a busy school year.

👉 [For more wellness tips and this month's recipe, read the Higginbotham Wellness Newsletter.](#)

<https://image.info.higginbotham.com/lib/fe3811717164057c721771/m/1/de121b1a-7303-4e8d-b32f-3d26c365db18.pdf>