



News from
**Assemblymember
Pamela J. Hunter**

128 Assembly District



Dear Friend:

Spring has ended and after spending a majority of my time in Albany in session with my colleagues, you'll be seeing me around the district attending community events. I hope you take the time to see some of the legislation that have passed to ensure our community continues to thrive.

A special congratulations to the Class of 2021 graduates. This year has certainly been challenging, so all of the graduating seniors should feel very proud and accomplished.

As always, we are always available to answer questions and advocate on your behalf. I implore you to remain vigilant, wear a mask and follow health, safety and social distancing guidelines. I wish everyone safety and health.

Warm Regards,

Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter

New York State Announces First-Ever Loyalty/Reward Program at State Campgrounds

(Reservations Now Open for 2022 Camping Season)

June 18, 2021, Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner Basil Seggos announced the first-ever Camper Loyalty/Reward Program for overnight stays at state campgrounds across New York. The introduction of the new Loyalty program coincides with the opening of the nine-month online reservation window for the 2022 Camping Season.

DEC operates 52 campgrounds and five day-use areas in the Adirondack and Catskill forest preserves. The camping season runs through the summer, with some facilities

remaining open during fall foliage and hunting season. For more information on DEC-operated campgrounds, including a list of campgrounds and schedules, visit **DEC's website**, or call DEC's Bureau of Recreation at 518-457-2500.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Recent Bills Passed:

Insurance:

- A3222A- Relates to excess disability insurance, authorizing catastrophic business disruption insurance as a non-basic type of insurance
- A5379- Provides for a policy term of less than one year in certain situations
- A7701- Improves insurance consumer servicing options

Veterans:

- A3237A- Relates to the reporting of a veteran's suicide
- A4474A- Relates to creating an action for the recovery of damages for personal injury caused by exposure to toxic burn pits while serving as a member of the armed forces

Driver's License Suspension Reform Act (DLSRA)

On June 29th, a new law called the Driver's License Suspension Reform Act (DLSRA) will become effective. This new law that I first sponsored as a bill in 2019 will allow those who have had a driver's license suspended for the inability to pay outstanding fines and fees to have their licenses reinstated with the option to enter into an income based payment plan. Going forward, no one will have their license suspended for inability to pay unless they fail to appear in traffic court. Suspensions will still apply for DWI or if too many points are accumulated for moving violations. Importantly, those who fail to appear may still receive a suspension. However, a new bill that passed both houses earlier this month will provide the option for those with failure to appear judgements and suspensions to go back to court to start a payment plan, which will then allow for the DMV to reinstate the suspended license.

For those who currently have a suspension for failure to appear, unfortunately, there is some ambiguity under the current DLSRA that allows the DMV to require the full payment of all outstanding fines and fees before a license is reinstated and without the option of a payment plan. This ambiguity was never intended, but emerged after negotiations with the Governor's office relating to how a failure to appear should be handled with motorists. While everyone is still required to appear to engage in a payment plan, I passed a subsequent piece of legislation to make it unequivocally clear that those with a failure to appear suspension can start a payment plan to secure a reinstatement (Assembly Bill A7874-A). In many cases, drivers do not appear in traffic court because they know they do not have the funds to pay a fine in full.

As the DLSRA takes effect later this month, A.7874-A still needs to be signed into law in order for those with failure to appear judgements to be guaranteed access to a payment plan. Those with failure to pay judgements will have their licenses automatically reinstated and will have access to a payment plan. As DLSRA is implemented, I will work to make sure A.7874-A is signed into law as expeditiously as possible.

If you are impacted by a license suspension due to fines, please feel free to reach out to my office if you have questions about reinstating your license under DLSRA.

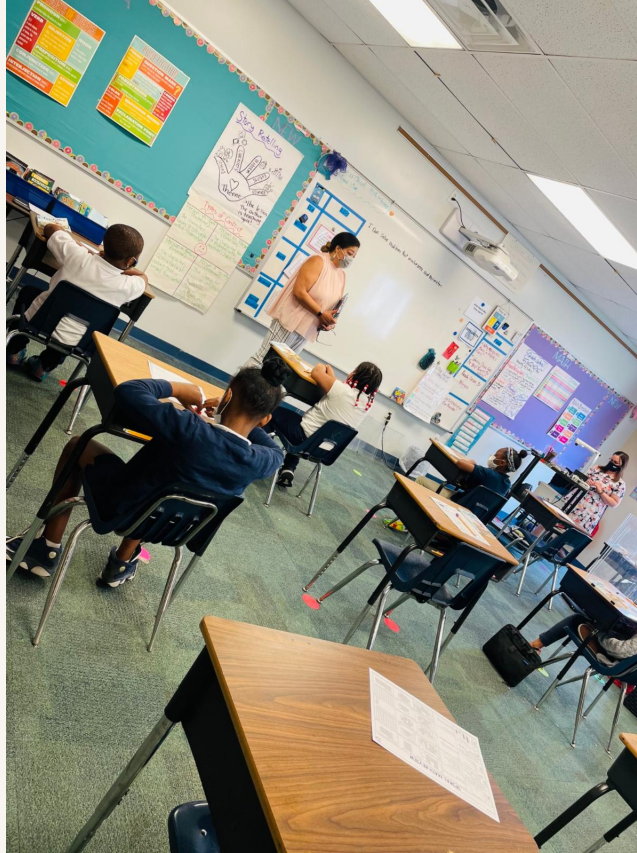
Assemblymember Hunter in the Community...

Women of Excellence Award Ceremony



My Exceptional Women of Central New York Awards
are a way to thank and recognize the inspirational
women around us who have shaped our lives, built our communities and make the world a
better place.

Southside Academy Charter School Visit



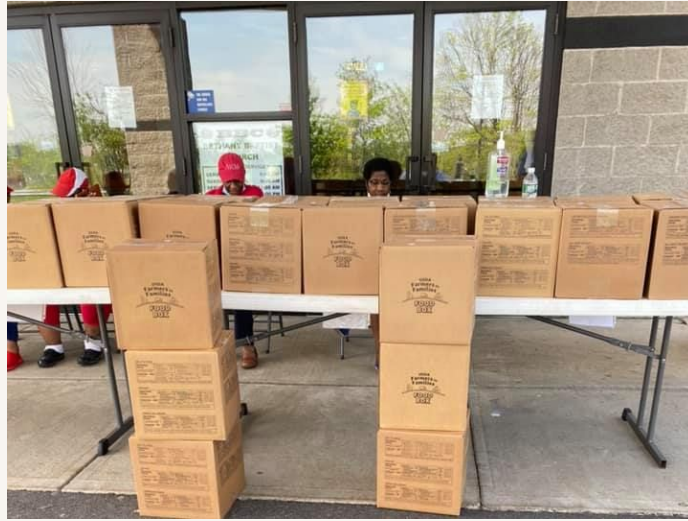
On May 17, I had the pleasure of touring Southside Academy Charter School and reading to a 4th grade class.

Panel on Equality Model Bill



On May 19th, I was a panelist at A Roadmap for New York- The Sex Trade Survivors Justice and Equality Act (STSJEA) Event. The event discussed how the STSJEA decriminalizes those in prostitution, expands access to services, advances criminal justice reform, and strengthens anti-trafficking legislation.

Food Giveaway at Bethany Baptist Church



Throughout May and June, we partnered with the American Dairy Association and Liverpool Turkey Trot to give away food boxes. Organizations receiving food included the Boys and Girls Club of Syracuse, the Spanish Action League/La Liga, and Bethany Baptist Church.

Memorial Day Weekend 2021



Picture Above from the East Syracuse Memorial Day Parade

Dunbar Post 1642 Memorial Day Observance

The Dunbar Post, established in the Westcott neighborhood 74 years ago, was one of the first predominantly African American posts in the region and serves not only as a social hub to its members, but more importantly is a strong support system for our local veterans. Weekend activities at the Post included a Fish Fry on Friday, live music, food and a Memorial Observance and Ceremony on Saturday and a BBQ on Memorial Day. A special thank you to all the generous community and individual sponsors!

Memorial Day Observance at Veterans Memorial Cemetery

It was my pleasure to take part in remembering, and honoring, those who gave their all for our Country.

Thank you Onondaga County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II for hosting this event at the **Veterans Memorial Cemetery**, 4069 Howlett Hill Road, Syracuse, NY 13215.

East Syracuse American Legion Post # 359 Memorial Day Parade

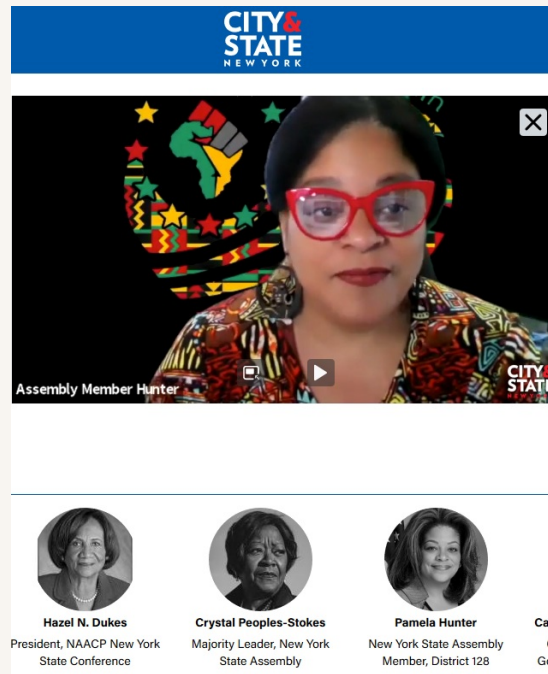
I also attended the Memorial Day Parade, in celebration of Memorial Day! This parade is hosted annually to honor the women and men who have given their lives defending our country.

In Remembrance of Gordon "Gordie" Lane



In Remembrance of **Gordon "Gordie" Lane**, an active war veteran Onondaga County renamed the Veterans Memorial Chapel in his name. The Chapel is located at 4069 Howlett Hill Rd, Syracuse, NY.

"Gordie dedicated his life to serving the veteran community and was a well respected advocate for veteran wellness. He holds many awards and honors for his leadership and veteran advocacy."



Recently, at the Women in Government Talk Series partnered with City & State NY, I was a panelist among other Assemblymembers and Councilmembers. The series I participated in was the Juneteenth Forum. This reflected on the diversity of our district, what Juneteenth means, and the liberties of all New Yorkers. The Women in Government Talk brought together government, industry, and technology leaders, and I was honored to be a panelist.

Urban Garden Planting at STEAM at Dr. King



This month, I was so happy to be able to attend Dr. King's Urban Garden Event. Dr. King's Elementary received a grant which paid for five raised garden beds, and composted soil. Students from the school have been able to work in the garden for over nine years, which has created quite the sense of community. I helped the students plant peppers, and when they're harvested, they'll be distributed to the neighborhood!

Upstate Medical University Tour



On June 21st, I attended a tour of the Upstate Medical University. I was able to see some of their facilities, and chat with Dr. Mantosh Dewan, the current President of the University, and Ms. Linda Veit, the Assistant Vice President of Community Relations.

Syracuse Fire Department Seal of Excellence Event



I also had the pleasure of attending a ceremony for the Syracuse City Fire Department on May 21st to celebrate their Seal of Excellence award. I presented the department with an Assembly citation, recognizing their great accomplishment and this prestigious award. The Seal of Excellence has only been awarded to 24 other fire departments across the nation.

Recognizing Valley Cleaners - Jerald Sakran



June 29, 2021, I honored Jerald Sakran with a citation for his service to the community of the City of Syracuse. Jerald and his wife Donna have worked at Valley Cleaners of Midland Ave for over 50 years, through the COVID-19 pandemic, and have recently decided to retire. They have been a staple in the community, and to their customers. Each year, they donated coats to the P.E.A.C.E., Inc. Project Connection's 'Coats-for-Kids'

American Red Cross: Severe Blood Shortage



Message from the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross is experiencing a severe blood shortage as the number of trauma cases, organ transplants and elective surgeries rise – and deplete the nation’s blood inventory.

Today, there is great hospital demand for blood. Patients who previously deferred care during the COVID-19 pandemic present with more advanced disease progression, therefore requiring increased blood transfusions. Hospitals are also responding to an atypically high number of traumas and emergency room visits, as well as overdoses and resulting transplants. Twenty to 40% of trauma deaths that occur after hospital admission involve massive hemorrhaging, and doctors need a secure blood supply to fight the odds.

Over the last three months, the Red Cross has distributed about 75,000 blood products more than expected to meet these needs. With less than half a day supply of Type O blood in recent weeks, there is an emergency need for Type O donors. Type O is the most needed blood group by hospitals.

We hope you will consider posting to encourage your followers to help with this life-saving initiative and schedule a blood appointment this summer.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate this critical situation with the blood supply.

- **Please help! Rising trauma cases, organ transplants & elective surgeries are depleting the US blood supply. The Red Cross urgently needs blood donors of all types, especially type O, & platelet donors to overcome this severe blood shortage. Sign up at rcblood.org/donate.**
- **ALERT! With hospital blood needs outpacing blood donations, the Red Cross urges everyone to help overcome a severe blood shortage and crucial patient care delays. Sign up to give ASAP: rcblood.org/donate**

[CLICK HERE TO REPORT UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD](#)

If you receive notice that you may be a victim of a fraud, make sure to fill out this form. This form is to report unemployment insurance (UI) fraud against the Department of Labor and/or identity theft related to UI. The information you provide in this form will remain confidential. If you are reporting an individual or business for fraud, you may remain anonymous.

**IF YOU ARE WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS
PLEASE CALL
1-844-245-1922 OR 211**

COVID VACCINE INFO:



***THANK YOU ESSENTIAL
WORKERS!
YOU ARE APPRECIATED***

[CLICK HERE](#)

***for a list of New York State-operated
vaccination locations with open
availability !***

[WALK IN NOW AVAILABLE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE APPOINTMENT](#)

Visit my website **[HERE](#)** for more news and updates !

Assemblymember Pamela J. Hunter
128th Assembly District Office
711 E. Genesee St, 2nd Floor
Syracuse, NY 13210
Phone: 315-449-9536