

Lubin: 40 Years Of Leading



Like a watch that keeps ticking, Alan Lubin continues his fight for NYSUT members that began 40 years ago this month.

First elected as a United Federation of Teachers district representative from Brooklyn in 1969, he now patrols the halls of the Capitol as NYSUT's executive vice president — pursuing a fair budget for union members and those they serve.

by Bernie Mulligan

The Brooklyn native is tireless, whether advocating for members with elected officials or strategizing at a legislative breakfast with union members about the best ways to approach representatives in Albany and Washington.

Bob Astrowsky, assistant secretary of UFT, also was elected in February 1969 as a union district representative.

Astrowsky smiles when he remembers that Lubin told him the part of the district representative job he hated the most was the “political part,” as Lubin is now a major force behind one of the nation's best organized member-driven union political action efforts.

“We are the only two still working from the original group elected then,” said Astrowsky. “That demanding new job made all of us close. It's like our kids and families grew up together.”

Lubin's commitment to civil rights and social justice began with for AFT and UFT President Al Shanker in the 1960s.

His work has touched the lives of many members, including Rachel Moyer, a retired NYSUT member from the Port Jervis schools, whose son's death at school could have been prevented by an Automated External Defibrillator. She worked with Lubin to tell her story to legislators and staff.

In 2002, the effort brought a new state requirement that every instructional building have at least one functional defibrillator and staff trained to use it.

“That law is one of the greatest things unions have done in this country,” Moyer said. “Alan told legislators that prisons had to have AEDs and asked them why the schools in their districts didn't.”

Lubin's style and willingness to dialogue has earned him many friends and few, if any, detractors.

“No one in my 12 years in the New York State Senate has been more accessible, thoughtful and committed to his ideals than Alan,” said Sen. Neil Breslin, D-Albany. “I value his insights and, more importantly, I value his friendship.”