

## *Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers wins NYSUT Journalism Awards*

Albany, (June 2012) — **The Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers has been honored by its statewide affiliate, New York State United Teachers, for outstanding work in labor journalism.**

**The local won the following honors:**

- 1) **Best Union News Story-** *The Winter of Our Discontent*
- 2) **Best Website-** [www.pmct.org](http://www.pmct.org)
- 3) **Solidarity Award for SPEAK OUT – union publication**
- 4) **Best Opinion Writing-** *Obama's Race to the Top*
- 5) **Best Profile –** *“Margaret King- Literacy Award”*
- 6) **Best Publication-** *Community Newsletter “Connections”*

**The awards were given to the PMCT in NYSUT’s annual journalism competition. In all, NYSUT recognized more than 50 local unions and retiree groups with awards in 15 categories in print and electronic communications. In total, 142 awards were given this year.**

**The Patchogue-Medford Congress of Teachers has 550 members. Webmaster Kathy Bucaria along with Editor Christina Paino and Graphic Artist Ellen DiFazio have assembled an award winning website packed with all sorts of links and features about the union, the schools and the community. Most of the articles on the website are also featured in *Speak Out* and *Connection*. Publications Chairpersons Michael Scholz and Michael Cuccinello prepare and assemble the layout for both community and union publications.**

**The awards were presented during an all-day conference held at NYSUT’s Albany headquarters on Saturday, June 9. In addition to the awards presentation and luncheon, the labor journalists — most of them volunteers — took part in a number of workshops applicable to their communications work. Topics included newsletter production, photography, website management and more.**

**Participants also heard from NYSUT Vice President Maria Neira, who reminded them that they are in a unique position to set the record straight about public education: “You’re not only teachers and school-related professionals and higher ed faculty and caregivers; you are also writers, editors, photographers, bloggers and webmasters who can tell your story – tell our story – so that the public and the policymakers in your communities understand the struggles that we overcome and the good work we do.”**

**Citing recent reports and rankings that show New York’s schools excelling, Neira concluded: “Because of what you and your colleagues back home do day in and day out, New York’s students and their schools are a success story you can tell, and tell proudly.”**

***New York State United Teachers represents 600,000 professionals in education and health care.***

