President's Message

June thoughts:

Last June, our past leader, Cathy Contino, asked me to act as President of the Teachers’ Association. One year later, the act continues! The activities of your association over this year have been only limited by your requests. The efforts I am most proud of are the role each representative has assumed in her building to accomplish contractual compliance, information sharing, and conflict resolution at a building level. The hours they spend above and beyond expectations have made a difference in each building.

Of equal importance are the executives of the WTA and the round table members. An organization is only as good as the officers. Our officers keep accurate financial records, efficient minutes and coordinate multiple committees that are a service to teachers, students and the community. We have added a “contract expert” position this year that has given us immediate ability to accurately read the intent and wording of the contract. To each of these ladies, I say thanks.

With next year comes new growth. We will support the comprehension and implementation of Understanding by Design and the Reading Academy as our building wide professional development goals. Our High School will put block scheduling to practice after spending a year of investigation! All levels will benefit from the curriculum writing and unit completions done this year.

A fond farewell is extended to our three retirees, Loreen Jorgensen, Larry Ruth and Craig Johnson. You will be missed.

I wish all the peaceful feelings only a summer can offer!

Pat

Top 10 WTA Recommended Summer Things To Do

#10. Attend the week long NEA National Delegate Assembly in New Orleans for 4th of July.

#9. Attend NEA/ NY’s summer leadership Training Institute at RIT in August.

#8. Be a Summer Reading Camp teacher.

#7. Participate in summer curriculum writing or other in-services.

#6. Schedule and attend summer meetings for every committee that you are on.

#5. Get a summer job.

#4. Get a wicked sun burn gardening, fixing up the house, building that barn, . . .

#3. Babysit your grandkids so that your kids can have a summer vacation.

#2. Host that big family reunion.

#1. RETIRE like Loreen Jorgensen, Craig Johnson, and Larry Ruth—Congratulations and thank you for all your years of service!

A special thank you to Donna Shumacher for the Wine Basket Raffle and to all those who pledged help and sat in the rain at the Ontario Summer Fest Days. 17 people volunteered and rumor has it that you all had fun anyway!
The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

3rd Thursday – Last 10 minute Meeting
June 19th - Free Donuts!
Town Meeting—Let us know what issues you’d like addressed next year

WTA Issues acted upon/discussed:
* Special Education Leadership Position statement created.
* Memorandum of Agreement regarding Job Sharing accepted for 03/04 school year.
* School Calendar.
* Payroll errors.
* MS climate committee.
* District Discipline Policy.
* Summer Orientation clarification of who needs to attend.

Issues currently being explored:
* Teachers’ Center—explore creating our own.
* Adding a new tax shelter annuity company to approved vendor list.

Rule of thumb #8
All work and no play makes a teacher burn out at the end of the day! ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

Says Good Bye

Larry Ruth, an art teacher at the T.C. Armstrong Middle School, is retiring after 41 years of service, 39 of those years of service in the Wayne Central School District. Larry earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Kutztown State Teacher’s College, Pennsylvania, with a major in K-12 art education and supervision, in 1962. In 1968, he earned a Masters of Education with a concentration in art education. Course work was also completed at the University of Rochester and Nazareth College of Rochester.

Larry resides in Walworth with his wife of 31 years, Jacque. They have four children, all of whom are graduates of the Wayne Central School District: Joshua, Nathaniel, Rachel and Russell. Larry and Jacque are also the proud grandparents of 3 grandchildren.

Professionally, one of the proudest accomplishments of his career that Larry cites is his involvement in NEA, and specifically his role on the National Education Association’s Board of Directors. Larry also served as local president of the WTA for 11 years, and served 5 years as county president. On a personal note, besides his wife and family, his proudest accomplishment is that of an author of four books on the historical perspective, design, development and production of firearms.

Future plans, aka “Life After Wayne Central”, include home improvement, another book, and the compilation of his memoirs. Mr. Ruth’s hobbies include woodworking and construction projects.

When asked about the most significant change in the educational system since his early years of teaching, Larry cited the creation of a Federal Department of Education, which emphasizes the importance of education to the nation as a whole. An area of concern seen over the years is the lack of responsibility some individuals take with regard to the education and well-being of children; those who seem to expect others to take on their responsibilities and yet point the blame when the outcomes are less than desirable. In a perfect state of education, Larry emphasized the importance of all stakeholders learning to work together for the betterment of all. Parents, community, all staff members from clerical, mechanical, grounds, food service, transportation, teaching aides and assistants, teachers, counselors, psychologists and administration must be a team to achieve the goals of “No Child Left Behind.”

“We thank Larry for many years of service to our students, this community, and our professional association, . . . “

We thank Larry for many years of service to our students, this community, and our professional association, and for the immeasurable hours spent pulling together the Wayne Echo Yearbook ~ 28 years of student and staff memories!

Enjoy your retirement, Larry. You deserve it!
“Are you counting the days?” Loreen Jorgensen’s answer to that is, “I have no idea. I have too many things I am trying to do to help get ready for my successor.”

Loreen has served as librarian at Ontario Primary School for 31 years. She says Mrs. Morely hired her because Loreen demonstrated her progressive thinking by referring to the library as “the media center.” She has seen the era of the filmstrips progress to that of the video to that of the DVD. The memory of the smell of dittoes and ink of the Gestetner is still vivid, even as Loreen works at updating the web page and brings up the list of overdues on her computer.

She remembers going to a library conference in Albany in 1976 and looking over a 16 kilobyte, tape driven monster of a PC and thinking this was the wave of the future. Call her Nostradamus. In 1980, she and co-worker Alice McRae reported that computers could be used in school libraries to do check outs, track circulation, collect statistics, and provide bibliographies on demand and more; and in 1999, all that happened.

Loreen has served WTA in many capacities. She began as a building alternate in the late ‘70’s, became a negotiator, served as WTA President 1984-86, went back to negotiating, and has continued to serve on the Constitution Committee and as an invaluable resource for her successors.

Loreen has served as a national officer for the Odyssey of the Mind.

Loreen’s passion is evident when she talks about this activity. “Talk about authentic assessment! This is an activity in which all the intelligences are tapped and all kids can work as a team and shine.” She recalls one student telling her, “I learned that I have good ideas, and I don’t have to let other kids run over me.”

If you want to know about geography, ask Loreen. She has backpacked across the US, including Alaska, Denmark, Cape Cod, Nova Scotia, Missouri, Arkansas, and Machu Picchu are only some of the places she has traveled. In October, she is heading for Australia and New Zealand. Are we jealous?

“The kid moments! Those are what are most memorable.” She recalls a little girl running into the library all hot and sweaty from the playground clutching a leaf in her hand. When Loreen helped her find what kind of leaf it was, the child exclaimed, “You can get information from books!”

Her favorite books? The Library Dragon. Chicka-Chicka Boom. The Ghost Eye Tree. “There are just so many.”

When asked if she has any advice for us, Loreen answers, “Grow and change. If you stand still in the middle of the road, you will get run over. And remember, you’ll learn more from your mistakes than your successes.”

Dr. Craig Johnson, our senior school psychologist is retiring after 17 years here in the Wayne Central School District. His wife Susan is also retiring as a school psychologist from Webster. They have 2 adult sons, one who lives here and works in the field of electronics, the other is an architect and lives out of state. So on to sunny horizons together, as they have purchased a home in Sedona, Arizona and will be moving near the end of this summer. Craig will probably continue to enjoy biking, opera, playing the piano, and nice restaurants all without the worries of Rochester weather or ice storms! MCC may also have a position open as Craig was teaching psychology classes there as well. We think a college in Arizona may be looking to snatch him up.

As the senior school Psychologist here at Wayne, Craig has worked over the years at OP, OE, MS, and finishing out at the HS. He sat for several years at the consulting school psychologist to our CSE committee. Of the five school psychologists, Craig is the only male. He provided that balance. He was the one his cohorts could turn to when needing to consult regarding emotional disorders and their effects on the children and school. He was their statistic guru. He will be greatly missed. I wonder what the long distance consulting fees will be?

Best wishes to Craig and his wife as they begin their new journey into retirement setting off into the Arizona sunset together!