At last, edition one of the 2002-03 newsletter! We hope to bring information to you that will be of interest both professionally and personally.

Our three goals this year are mainly related to communication. First, we are creating this newsletter for all the membership to access. Second, we have attempted to link all first year teachers with veteran teachers in their building. This is not meant to be a mentor situation, but simply a friendship. At least monthly the new teacher will be visited by our veteran and reminded of important dates and opportunities. Ideas for these meetings will be generated at the monthly RC meetings. Our third goal is the social meeting called third Thursday. We hope you took the opportunity to attend the gathering in your school last month. We shared some information on annual performance review paperwork and deadlines.

The next third Thursday will be October 17". Be sure to stop in at your building's meeting place and get a great donut from Lisa Marlowe's donut shop! Our topic this month will be how to get your problems heard and addressed!!!

Enjoy your students and your colleagues. The ability to teach is a gift.

For you,
Pat Yates

President's Message

Horsing Around in Saratoga!
Building powerful local associations.

Summer time, Saratoga, horseracing beginning. . . . what a better place to gather all the work horses together and whip them into shape for the upcoming school year! Our new leaders Pat Yates, Lori Sensenbach, and Beth Peters along with our esteemed NEA National Regional Director, Larry Ruth all attended this annual 3 day summer leadership institute.

There were breakout sessions for veteran presidents, new presidents, and emerging leaders. We covered the gambit of topics from board elections and budget votes to grievances and negotiations.

Most importantly, NEA is taking an active role in the interpretation, and information process regarding the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) commonly referred to as the No Child Left Behind Act. This is a huge piece of legislation that has a serious impact on what we do and how we do it. NEA is assisting our state and local unit members through bargaining, providing timely interpretive information, and offering training workshops. Additionally, NEA is working with school and state officials to ensure that the implementation of ESEA is fair and equitable.

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Inside this issue:
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L E T'S Celebrate!
OP
Baby Girls to:
Janice Hyde, (Annalisa)
Lori Dow, (Kylie)
Marriages:
Rebecca Fafinski now Feistel,
Masters Degree earned:
Becky Groff and Rebecca Feistel
The Big 5-0:
Pat Yates - September 17th!
OE
Marriages:
Erin Comstra now Genge,
Erin Quinn now Altmire.
FW
Master's degree earned:
Jill Ghysel, Sarah Lohr,
Melanie Stevenson, and Alex Balta.
National Certification:
Beth Peters - School Counseling
Marriages:
Tiffany Marvin now Cotsonas
MS
Marriages:
Charlie Roods to April Andrews,
Amy Mercer.
The Big 5-0!
Lee White—Oct. 6
Rick Massie—Oct. 10
HS
Marriages:
April Andrews,
Elizabeth Billey now Waring,
Mark McMillin,
Amy Hmurick now Tobin.

Pat “Breaking Out”
The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

APPR
Rule of thumb #1
If in doubt, play it safe! Set up a conference with your principal.

By September 28th—you have:
• completed form A (everyone)
• Had your goal setting meeting (everyone - personal, building, and technology goals agreed upon)
• completed form J, Professional Growth Plan (Option B - tenured only)

By October 15th –you have:
• Had an informal observation-probationary teachers.

Rule of thumb #2
Keep copies of everything!

Problems Currently Resolved due to WTA
1. A health benefit decision was reversed.
2. Travel mileage was awarded.
3. Teaching duties reviewed and changed.
4. Exit Survey created and mailed by D.O. to be returned to Pat Yates.

Under Review by WTA
1. Salary review discussion.
2. APPR format and process.
3. Elementary master schedule discussion.

3rd Thursdays – 10 Minute Meeting
October 17th - Free Donuts!
We promise only 10 minutes—we keep it simple! We Care!

Class sizes, quality staff, and safe and modern schools. He is committed to expanding health care for all New Yorkers. He has already delivered a cost of living increase for retirees, and doubled the state pension fund. Check out www.mccall02.com to get more information.

NEA /NY Endorses Mc Call

This is a big year for New York State and education. Your vote will make a difference and NEA/NY is calling on all of us to make the difference! At the region 6 meeting we were reminded that in his message to the people, H. Carl McCall has made it clear that he gives the credit for where he is today to education and family. He has pledged to provide $8 billion over the next four years so that students can have smaller

OWL.Org - NEA’s New Web Service

Surfing the net with no place to go? Our Web Location for Education or OWL has got something for you! NEA’s new web site is for helping teachers and staff. Check them out for:
⇒ Professional development
⇒ Lesson plans,
⇒ discipline strategies
⇒ Job placement,
⇒ Professional articles, stories, sharing,
⇒ Shopping,
⇒ And more . . .

Educators Helping Educators . . .

OWL.org registration is free and open to anyone interested in kids and public education. OWL.org addresses every part of NEA members’ lives -- professional, personal, and as Association members. The site supports members with education tips, strategies, and materials, as well as access to some of the top Web resources for educators. OWL.org is "Educators Helping Educators," with online discussion boards and other interactive features that let members share opinions and make connections. And contributions are always welcome.

NEA states that before it backs any candidate they make sure that they measure up on the issues that we care about.
1. Strengthening public education,
2. Ensuring children’s health and safety,
3. Maximizing student learning,
4. and Respecting school employees.
Exercise your right and vote!