

# WAYNE'S WORLD

## WTA/NEA-NY

WTA Newsletter

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 Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer  
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## President's Message

### Happy New Year

#### Tax tips:

With your resolutions and newly set goals for the New Year comes the unpleasant task of preparing tax returns. I have a few tips to assist you in your preparation:

1. The union dues for this year are \$555.00 for a full time employee and \$280.00 for our part-time colleagues. If you itemize, this amount will be useful.
2. Although it expires this year (2003), there still is a deduction for teaching expenses. Teachers, teacher's

aides and teacher assistants may deduct up to \$250.00 in qualified expenses. In 2003, eligible educators in public and private elementary and secondary schools who work at least 900 hours during the school year as a teacher, instructor, counselor, principal, or aide may claim a deduction for purchases of books and classroom supplies. This deduction of up to \$250. is recorded on the taxpayer's form 1040, line 23. Qualified expenses are unreimbursed expenses for supplies, books, equipment and other materials used in the class-



room.

(Check

with your tax preparer for exact details!) Educators should maintain records and receipts of qualifying expenses, noting the date, amount and purpose of each purchase.

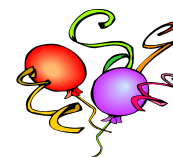
Please be aware of the penalties for false claims. For more information, please see [www.nystax.gov](http://www.nystax.gov) or call 1-800-225-5829.

My best wishes for painless budget completion, local and state assessment success and priceless moments with your students,  
 Pat

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#### Celebrate!

#### OP

#### OE

**FW** 3 Cheers and Welcome to Melanie Stevenson—WTA's new negotiator -at -large.

**MS** Congratulations on the births of their new babies to: Danielle Powelczyk-baby boy, Devon; Lori Wilis—baby girl, Leah; and Tracy Gray—baby girl born on Christmas Day-Abby Rose.

Did you hear those wedding bells? Jennifer Green Underwood was recently married in December!

3 cheers and Welcome to Marc Binsack, WTA's new NEA/NY delegate.

**HS** Welcome to Rebecca Postell—English Department and Cheryl Raleigh—History Department. Congratulations to Meredith Kulik on the birth of her baby boy. Julie Weller is now Julie Green—she got married in December!

**District Wide** Congratulations to All of You for making it possible to support 33 families this Holiday season through the Weisenreider /Community Outreach fund.



## NEA's Professional Website!

WWW.OWL.ORG is the website of NEA designed to support teachers and school staff with practical tips, strategies, community tools, and educational materials. It is "devoted to educators helping educators." The founding partners that are working collaboratively to give you access to the best of the best include: PBS, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development,

Public Education Network, National Woman's Health Resource Center, Teachers—Teachers.com, Education World, Pearson, Skylight, and Canter and Associates to name a few.

A recent perusal of the site found these postings and more:

- \* A section for new teachers with information on working with gifted students, web quests, and keeping sane in your first years.

- \* Articles coving topics such as multiple intelligence and emotional intelligence, perspectives on personalizing learning, and technology.
- \* Current education news and events such as Read Across America Day, and celebrating 100 years in flight.

Happy Surfing!

# The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

**3rd Thursday– 10 minute Meeting January 22nd.**



## TOPICS FOR NEGOTIATING

– bring us your concerns and ideas of what you think your negotiators should be focusing on for the next contract and enjoy a donut while you're there!

## Issues currently being explored:

- \* Possibility of a grievance.

## WTA Issues acted upon/discussed:

- \* Letter sent from NEA State Attorney on behalf of a former employee seeking a court action regarding unemployment pay.

**Wanted:** WTA members who may be vocal, out-spoken, creative, have action ideas, quite thinkers, stick to it types, like to get your point made, and feel a need for action. I think that could be you! The Political Action

Committee needs you! Contact Beth Peters at Freewill Elementary School 524-0241 or e-mail her directly. Get involved in the future of education!

## Rule of thumb #12:

*Wear Your PJ's inside out to facilitate having snow days and remember to bring the important stuff home with you on these winter days!*

## GOOD STUFF!!!!!!

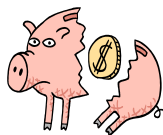
### What's in your Contract?!

**Q: How would I know if there is a vacancy in the district?**



**A:** As stated on page 23 of the contract, a vacancy is "a teaching or an extra duty position to be filled by official action of the BOE. Vacancy notices shall include a description of that position, including qualifications, responsibilities, location, etc. and shall be posted; a written notice shall be sent to the association president. All vacancies shall be posted the day following official BOE action, declaring the vacancy. In no event should a vacancy for a full time permanent position be filled, except in a temporary basis, prior to posting for five (5) school days. All unit members shall be given first consideration in filling those positions.

**NEA/NY Income Protection Plan:** the NEA Income Protection Plan is now available in New York. The newly revised plan protects members against the dangers of lost income while on disability (including normal pregnancy). The Plan is underwritten by American Fidelity Assurance Company and gives members the option of selecting between a short-term, 2-year benefit or the short-term plan with extended protection to retirement age. With the NEA plan,



benefits do not reduce until your total income during disability exceeds 2/3 of your pre-disability income. Actively working association members can enroll by calling NEA Member Benefits at 1-800-637-4636 and ask for item 625. More information is also available online at [www.neamb.com](http://www.neamb.com) and will be coming out in the next issue of the Advocate.

### The WTA Leadership survey says:

At the time this survey was conducted we had 26 members in elected positions. Of those 26, 19 responded to the survey or 72%. Most report being in their elected positions from 2—4 years. Overall experience ranged from 2—15 years of service in WTA leadership positions. Most have held between 1 and 4 positions, although 2 inspired people have served in 4 different positions! 6 officers have participated in the Peak-N-Peak weekend leadership training and 3 have participated in the week long Summer Leadership Training Institute. Both of these programs are sponsored by and run by NEA/ NY representatives. Of those responding to the survey 44% (8) of our current leaders have participated in one or more NEA sponsored trainings, 55% had not. Assuming that those who did not respond had nothing to report, it could be assumed then that 68% of those currently elected have not participated in any specific NEA leader-



ship trainings.

Your WTA officers are committed to providing you with skilled and trained leadership. We therefore, have identified the need to provide Negotiator training, Building Rep training and address any other areas of need so that we continue to grow in strength and unity as the Wayne Teachers' Association.

### Personal Financial Consultations Available in house!

Stop Down, Say Hello, and Have a Cookie with Mike Kramer and Dan Dovan of the Legend Group. They will be available to answer your questions and provide financial investing information regarding new tax laws, rules to retirement planning, and the NEA endorsed Value's Builder Program. Look for the flyer in your mailbox soon. They will be in your building 4 times this year, January, February/March, April, and May/June. Their schedule for this month is as follows:

OE—Jan. 13th (Tuesday)  
FE— Jan. 14th ( Wednesday)  
MS—Jan. 15th (Thursday)  
HS—Jan. 21st (Wednesday)

