President's Message

The final push…….everyone is assessed!

As we approach the magical June 1, many of our WTA members face the Annual Summative Review. All probationary appointments and those on the September through June evaluation calendar cycle need to schedule an appointment with the appropriate administrator for this conversation. At this meeting, the administrator will make informed judgments of your yearly performance. These judgments are based on five things:

1. Informal/Formal observations
2. Evidence of Planning and Preparation
3. Evidence of Classroom Environment
4. Evidence of Instructional Strategies
5. Evidence of Professional Responsibilities

You will need to provide two things:

1. Completed Self Evaluation Form (Form A)
   Note the different forms for Counselors and Psychologists.
2. Artifacts to support your professional Growth and competency in Danielson’s Four Domains. Some includes include: unit designs with the UbD approach, parental communications, student work, and reflections or surveys.

Your administrator should provide copies of three things:

1. Previously set goals
2. Completed evaluation form
3. Notes from observations

Together you will develop three goals for your professional growth. Your administrator, as a result of this meeting, will develop a narrative document to be placed in your file. You will both sign this document. You have 5 days to sign this document and you may add comments. All of this must be completed by June 10th, 2005 if you are in this Spring review cycle.

Prepare, bring evidence and enjoy sharing your accomplishments and your strengths.

Pat

News From the Delegate Assembly!

This year’s NEA –NY Delegate Assembly was full of surprises! On Saturday April 16th, the Wayne Teachers Association was recognized for publishing Wayne’s World. Beth Peters, External Vice President and Editor of the local paper, accepted the award of “Outstanding New Local Newsletter” on behalf of the WTA. NEA/NY Officers: Robin Rapaport, (President) Matt Jacobs (Vice President) and Bill Ninness (Treasurer) presented the award and are all pictured below.

Rumor has it that our delegates Marc, Beth, Erin, Pat, and Alan were also shown on the local channel 13 news in Albany when Elliot Spitzer made a guest appearance at the DA!

Of course the most important news is that the motion to continue with the process of a merger between NEA/NY and NY-SUT was passed by a 2/3 majority vote. 398 delegates voted in favor of merger out of a possible 513 registered at the assembly. This was by far the strongest attendance at a DA in recent years!

Q: What is the document called that allows for a modification of the collective bargaining agreement before the next round of negotiations?

The first member to contact his/her UniServ Representative will receive a $5 Gift Card.

Inside this issue:

The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, Relief
Building Relationships
Financial Updates

LET’S CELEBRATE!

Thanks to Greg Geesler: WTA raised a total of $1500 for the Scholarship fund last night at the Second Annual Family Feud.

What the heck it’s spring—lets just celebrate—what better reason is there?!!?
3rd Thursday, April 28th  
Topic: Turn in your Negotiations Surveys!

Issues currently being explored:
♦ Summer School selection process.  
♦ Salary steps for negotiations.  
♦ Extra day for Elementary—contractual issue.  
♦ Makeup procedure for Spec. Ed. services missed.

Issues acted upon/discussed:
♦ A MS tenure issue.  
♦ Monitored /assisted probationary teachers being released.  
♦ Extended day at HS.

Rule of thumb #22: Leave earlier than you might normally on a nice day and don’t forget to stop and smell the roses (actually tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, magnolias . . .)!

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, May 6th or My 13th? WTA Good Times at Ontario Golf Club. All are welcome! It’s a great spring time atmosphere with those beautiful rolling greens and nice looking golfers! And while you are there check out the new menu with added variety!

NEA/NY UniServ Representative:  
Jeff Trout JTrout@NEANY.ORG  
Office: 800-536-5330  
Fax: 585-272-1052

How does 4 summer days in Lake Placid for free sound to you? If you are available from August 1—4th and you’d like to develop your leadership abilities then we have just the opportunity for you! NEA-NY’s Summer Conference will be held at the Hilton Hotel and we pay for our members to attend! This year’s theme is “Building Relationships: Our Union and Beyond.” Participants will have the opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge in the workshops offered. This year’s topics include:

1. School Law updates for Teachers  
2. School Law updates for Support Staff  
3. Section 504 and IDEA—Disciplining students with special needs  
4. Health Insurance—Knowing the lingo and plan formats so you don’t get hoodwinked  
5. Health Insurance—Organizing around issues and the health care crisis  
6. Bargaining 101—Comprehensive training session to help you get what you need  
7. Advocacy 101—Comprehensive session to better your ability to represent your members  
8. Hot Issues in Teacher Certification  
9. Hot Issues in NYS Department of Education  
10. Putting Together and Effective Crisis/Action Plan  
12. Bargaining Salary Schedules—Goals and Pitfalls  
13. Continuation of Connection Cadre Teams  
14. What’s Next for NEA-NY

It all begins with a nice dinner on Monday, August 1st. Lily Eskelson, from NEA will be there to speak and entertain us. She is full of energy and insight! The coordinated social events always spice things up a bit too! For more information check out www.neany.org in the members only section. I believe the password is neany!

If you are interested in attending speak to your building rep ASAP. Hope to see you there!

Seminars Coming Up
Closing in on Retirement is being offered Thursday, May 5th at O.E beginning at 3:45PM.

10 steps to Financial Success will be held on Thursday, May 26th at beginning at 3:45 PM.

All seminars are open to anyone wishing to attend! These seminars are expressly geared toward public employees.

Mike Kramer, from the Legend Group will be back again in the staff rooms as follows:
Monday, May 5th—Middle School Tuesday, May 6th—Freewill Wednesday, May 7th—High School Wednesday, June 1st—OP Thursday, June 2nd—O.E

Dan Dipaola and Dave Pulcini from AXA are also scheduled to be available in the district. Their schedule is:
Thursday, May 19th—O.E Tuesday, May 24th - OP Thursday, June 2nd—Middle School Thursday, June 16th—Freewill

These are the last scheduled times for this school year—please feel free to stop by your staff lounge, grab a cookie and ask your financial questions.