WAYNE'S WORLD
WTA/NEA-NY

WTA Newsletter

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President's Message

Report cards, midterms and State tests are the topic. It must be January. We seem to be measuring everything! It becomes increasingly difficult to enjoy the pure thrill of teaching without evaluating why we are having fun……..

Perhaps it is time to make a date to self-evaluate and I do not mean Charlotte Danielson's approach! What is it you need? Personally, here is my list:

1. **My 25 year old body** don't laugh. I chase 5 year olds.
2. **My 17 year old attitude**~ Do you remember the feeling of invincibility we had at that time of our life? Our dreams and goals were within reach. We were not questioning our actions because our choices were always correct.
3. **My 21 year old hair** the style was questionable, but the color was so easy to maintain!
4. **A firm retirement date!** Did you read the letter from your building representatives this month? If this is your final school year and you want to collect the incentive money because it is the school year you became 55, your letter of intention to retire must be submitted to DO by February 1, 2005. See your building representative for necessary details.

If I had those four things, life would be perfect……

E-mail me…how are you coping? I will include the best coping strategies for all to enjoy next month..

Pat

Finances, Benefits, and Taxes—Yuk!?!

How about a seminar? Tax Preparation and Strategies with and emphasis on Educators. This would cover deductions you may have overlooked and changes in the 2004 tax preparations that could effect you.

How to Save and Pay For College for your Children. This is good for either scenario—if your child will be going in the next few years or you have a longer time to save. How to position yourself to enhance scholarships, grants, and loans and FAFSA tips. Also ideas on how to position your assets to benefit from loans and grants.

Personal Budgeting. Identify your financial goals and manage debt.

10 Steps to Financial Success: Figure out your investor profile, calculate your retirement needs, and create a plan.

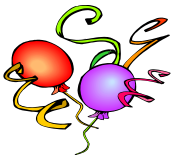
Retiring Soon? Learn more about NYS Teacher's Retirement System, your choices, and how it works for you.

Long Term Care. Learn from a specialist in the field. What are the choices for safeguarding your future especially if you need managed health care.

Please take time to fill out and send in the survey so that we can schedule a group seminar that is right for you.

Legend Group's Mike Kramer is also back in the new year! Here are his upcoming dates:
HS: 1/10 (Mon,), 5/6 (Thurs)
MS: 1/18 (Tues), 5/18 (Wed)
OE: 2/8 (Tues), 6/2 (Thurs)
OP: 2/10 (Thurs), 6/1(Wed)
FE: 2/9 (Wed), 6/17 (Thurs).

L E T' S



CELEBRATE !

District Wide

Thank you Nancy Domm and Social Committee for another successful happy gathering at the Ontario Golf Club!
Over 40 people attended! Good company, great atmosphere and conversation, and scrumptious food and drinks!
Save the next date of February 11th - Valentine's Day buffet will also be available.

Q: Under the labor/management parameters established by the Taylor Law, are state mandated AIS (Academic Intervention Services) requirements a mandatory subject of bargaining? Why or why not?

A: Yes! And no one replied so we do not have a winner :(

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

3rd Thursday! Donuts are back! This Thursday find out all you need to know about our Wayne's retirement incentive! I wish I was 55 this year!

Issues currently being explored:

- Team leader stipend issue
- Budget notification and deadlines.
- Professional Development Team and membership from the association.

Issues acted upon/discussed:

- Grievance settled in favor of WCSD.

DON'T FORGET!

NEA NY– Scholarship application deadline is Tuesday, Feburary 15th!
Forms are available in each building. Seniors can apply for 2 or 4 year college scholarships.

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

Rule of thumb #20: *It's all in how you arrange your mind—Happy people are that way because they make up their mind to be!*

Do you have something to say**?** Would you like to see and experience the halls of government first hand**?** Then hop aboard for **NEA Lobby Day in Albany, Tuesday, March 8th**. Any WTA member is welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Beth Peters @ x5731 by February 4th if interested .

What's to Become of NEA-NY?

NEA and NYSUT have entertained discussions of merger for the past 10 years. The discussions are now moving to reality as at last year's Delegate Assembly, the delegation voted to support continuation of merger talks and to move ahead with the formulation of a merger plan. This plan has now been written and is currently being discussed at the state and local levels.

Whether to merge or not will be brought to a vote at the April Delegate Assembly in Albany this year. This has provided for both emotional and heated discussion at all meetings at all levels. WTA is committed to both educating you on this issue and making your voice heard at the April vote.

Over the next few months we will pass along information, make time available to answer your questions, and ask for your opinion towards this vote. It is not an easy decision. Here is a synopsis of the position paper that was accepted in November by the NEA/NY Board and NYSUT board.

Fundamental Beliefs to Create a Single State Union

Purpose:
The New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) and the National Education Association of New York (NEA/NY) believe that their common mission of promoting the economic, personal and occupational well-being of their members and securing the highest quality education for all students in New York can best be achieved through the formation of a single State Union (SSU). Toward that end, subject to the approval of the appropriate governing bodies they jointly agree to the following set of unification principals.

1. The united organization will champion public education.
2. The SSU will be an inclusive organization.
3. The SSU will reach decisions democratically.
4. The SSU will strongly support local affiliate efforts to serve members.
5. The SSU will provide the highest quality services to members.
6. The SSU will foster diversity.
7. The SSU will work for a strong, democratic and effective labor movement.
8. The SSU unification process will involve members and respect the past.

This Thursday (today!) the Region 6 meeting will be held at Di-Pacifics on Route 96. Dinner begins at 5pm with an Irondequoit School District teacher speaking about NYSUT and their school. At 6pm merger discussions with one of our State Rep will ensue. Anyone can and is encouraged to attend, **contact Beth Peters, your WTA External VP at x5731 or via e-mail.**
For a copy of the full text of the belief statement contact your elected delegate: this year they are Pat Yates, Beth Peters, Marc Binsac, Tom Seimbor, and Jackie Siwicki.

Weisenreder / Community Outreach Holiday Benefit Raffle raised over $620.00!

This made possible the gift of financial support during the Holidays for 17 families in the Wayne community. And Kathy Emison won the basket!