

# WAYNE'S WORLD

## WTA/NEA-NY

WTA Newsletter

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## It's All About Communication



This past spring I read Mark Haddon's novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*. The main character, Christopher Francis Boone, is an autistic teen-ager in Britain. He knows every prime number up to 7,057 and all the capitals of the world, but doesn't understand human emotion. He is confused by body language and metaphors. He torturously struggles to understand and to make himself understood.

Autistic individuals face daily hurdles with communication. As I read the book, however, I wondered if we don't all face similar struggles. We may lack the writ-

ten or oral skills and the vocabulary to accurately convey our thoughts and emotions. We may be too intimidated to speak up, or we may feel we have to bulldoze our way through interactions. We may not have the opportunity or access to those individuals with whom we need to interact. We may get information too late to adequately process it and react. When communication breaks down, small problems become large.

Your WTA Rep Council has worked hard over the last couple of years to improve communication with the association members through 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday meetings and

the publication of *Wayne's World* and *Rep RAP*. You heard me say on opening day that one of WTA's main goals this year is to further strengthen communication by focusing on the link between building representatives and administration. Your building reps meet monthly with the building principals, not to gripe, but rather to inform, clarify, and problem-solve. We strongly urge you, if you have a problem or a concern, to go to your team leader or department chair, and then, if need be, to your building principal. If you need further assistance, contact your reps.

Lori Sensenbach

## WTA—Your Go(al) Getters!

During the 2004 /05 school year, our goals were focused on 3 main areas: training new leaders, promoting and supporting committee work, and improving communications. And that we did! Our attendance at training conferences was high and our participation at State and National levels was recognized. Our committees got us organized around events, held successful fundraisers, and brought public recognition and re-

spect to WTA and its membership. Our communication efforts earned us statewide recognition and continue to unite us and keep us informed.

This year we pledge to continue those already successful endeavors and increase our focus in these three main areas.

**First and foremost we are committed to securing an equitable contract** for our membership and to com-

municate regular updates regarding negotiations proceedings.

We will **continue to further strengthen communication** by focusing on the link between building representatives and administration.

And lastly, we **continue to promote and support committee work by focusing on recruiting, retaining, and growing new leadership.**

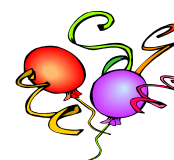
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### CELEBRATE !

#### Wedding bells rang for :

Here are the correct names of who got married over the summer and someone I left out ( my apologies)!

Andy Struzik (HS), Jackie Shiers *now* Leszyk, and yes Brian Knebel married this summer as well. It must have been the heat!

#### Stork Visits:

Baby boy - Alec has just arrived at Lori Gilbert 's house!

Tracy Harvey just gave birth to baby girl—Meghan.

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

**3rd Thursday—October 20th**

**Topic: What's in Your Contract?** Bring your calendars and your contract. Leave with a donut!



### Issues acted upon/discussed:

- ◆ Special Education meetings/ in-services clarified.
- ◆ Clarified 7 hours of professional development for this year.

### Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ APPR committee to meet soon re: summative evaluation forms.

- ◆ Timeliness of responses to inquiries made to district office administration.
- ◆ Department Chair grievance filed.
- ◆ Evaluation of Block Schedules at the HS.
- ◆ Review of who is filling the paid positions at school events.
- ◆ Examining extra duties encouraged of staff.

**Rule of thumb #24:** *It's your pay so check you stub— know your deductions, etc. Report errors promptly!*

**Happy Hour Returns!** At the Ontario Golf Club. Upcoming dates are being planned for November, January, March, and the last one in late May / early June.

**NEA—NY Fall Leadership Training Conference at Holiday Valley.** October 21, 22, and 23rd. See your building rep today if you are interested in attending!

**Want to know how negotiations are proceeding?** Watch for the updates delivered right to your mail box. Updates will come directly from the negotiations team.

## Pat Yates—Thanks You!

What a spring, summer and fall this has been! Let me introduce myself to those who do not know me. My name is Pat Yates and I have served as an officer of the Wayne Teachers' Association for many years. My most recent position was as your President.

The reason for this brief message is to thank all of you (and there have been so many!) for your kind messages, phone calls, gifts, birthday cards and prayers you have sent during my battle with cancer. If these thoughtful actions could restore health, I would be healed. As it is, I am feeling stronger each day. My

doctors are pleased with the progress and continue to move forward with therapies and treatments.

I finish the radiation therapy on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to rest all treatments for a week, review a new MRI and move on. Your prayers will continue to be a blessing. My plan is to be back to Wayne Central by the first of the year. This plan includes strength enough to chase 6 year olds and some hair!

Wayne Central is full of compassionate people. Whenever you feel "stuck", go next door or to your build-

ing leader. I am sure your colleague will be glad to listen and provide you with the words you need to hear. This is true for every building we have. I know because it has happened for me.

Best of luck to you in your new year and enjoy your students, your family and your friends. That is what truly matters!

All my love and appreciation~

Pat



The NEA Foundation gives hundreds of grants a year to fund your BIG ideas. Small grants can lead to big changes so the NEA Foundation encourages you to think big!

**Innovation Grants and Learning & Leadership Grants:** The NEA Foundation provides \$2,000 and \$5,000 grants to public school teachers, public school education support profes-

sionals, . . . for the purpose of engaging in high-quality professional development or implementing project-based learning and break-the-mold innovations that raise student achievement. These grants are funded in part by Staples Recycle for Education.

**NEA Fine Arts Grants:** These grants enable fine arts teachers to create and implement fine arts programs that

promote learning among students at risk of school failure. Read about the work of grant recipients. The next deadline to apply is February 1, 2006.

Applications for these programs are currently being accepted. Eligible applicants must follow the grant guidelines. Check out their website at [www.neafoundation.org](http://www.neafoundation.org) or call 202-822-7840. You can even download applications on line.