

WAYNE'S WORLD

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A WTA Newsletter

March, 2007

Volume 5 Issue 6

President's Message



Wow, the school year seems to be moving by so fast! Spring appears to finally have arrived and we are about to begin the fourth and final quarter of the school year. **Parent/teacher conferences** will be happening again in April. As a reminder the contract allows for teachers who meet outside contact hours for these conferences to receive an equivalent amount of release time up to 1/2 day on a day specified by the district.

This April the **WTA will also be launching the VOTE-COPE campaign.** VOTE-COPE is the fundraising campaign for the Committee on Political Education, the non-partisan political action arm of NYSUT. VOTE-COPE is used to help campaign committees that support education and la-

bor and support union backed candidates. It was very successful in helping to get pro-education candidates elected in the November 2006 elections. VOTE-COPE also helped win a permanent cost-of-living adjustment for retiree pensions, built momentum for greater investment in our schools, spearhead a historic override of vetoes that restored \$1 billion in education and health care funding, and much more. Local rebates to school unions who contribute to VOTE-COPE allow locals such as ours to rally support for the passage of the annual school budget. In previous school years \$5 was automatically deducted as part of your union dues which went towards NEA's political action fund; however, under NYSUT donations are 100% voluntary and each local

runs their own fundraising campaign. More information will be following regarding the WTA campaign.

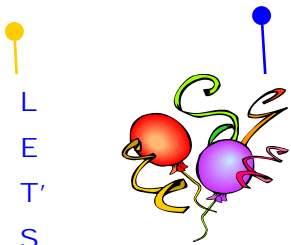
The WTA will also be launching its own website and sending its delegates to the NYSUT Representative Assembly in Washington DC.

The purpose of the website is to educate our members, distribute important information quickly, allow for political action, and provide answers to frequently asked questions. The website should be up and running by mid-April. The RA will be held April 26-28 and your delegates are Tom Siembor, Beth Peters, and me. More information about the RA is forthcoming and will be a part of the new website.

Jason Carter

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CELEBRATE !

Congratulations to:

Joshua Steele, son of Ronnie and Dave, (and also a Wayne Grad) was admitted to the Monroe County Bar association!!!

OP Baby News:

Rebecca Feistel along with husband Eric had a baby girl, Isabella on 3/7/07!
Tracy VanBuren and her husband Mark had a baby boy, Xavier on 3/9/07

Congratulations: on another successful Family Feud which raised **\$1573.60** for the **WTA Scholarships!** Final score: 63 Armstrongs to 57 Beneways!

WTA SOCIAL!

Friday, March 30th,
3:30 p.m. to whenever
Branding Iron Restaurant,
Knickerbocker Road, Ontario



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

3rd, 4th, 1st Thursdays????

Please note the date changes:
March 29th!—Feedback from mentors and other non-administrative staff.



- ◆ Creating a WTA training re: professionalism.
- ◆ Special Ed Admin concerns.

Dates to Remember:

- ⇒ Summer Curriculum proposals due April 30th.
- ⇒ WTA Scholarship applications are due April 30th.
- ⇒ Last WTA social of the year—June 1st at the Branding Iron!

Issues acted upon/resolved:

- ◆ Motion passed to establish WTA website!
- ◆ Tenure dates.
- ◆ WTA building rep training in house.

Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ Data collection and distribution issues.

Rule of thumb #38: “Take the educators tax deduction—You’ve probably spent more than that anyway!”

Educators may subtract up to \$250 of qualified expenses when figuring their adjusted gross income (AGI) for 2006.

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Updates from the Contract Committees !

Professional Conduct Committee Report

– **Ronnie Steele:** The committee finalized a proposal that was presented at the March Rep council meeting. We thank them for their thoughtful and considerate approach to this delicate subject area. Although the Rep council voted the guidelines down it was not because they disagreed with them rather how they might be used or misused. Therefore a motion was passed by the Rep council to take responsibility for creating

proactive solutions in training our members on what constitutes professional conduct. They will use existing WCSD board policies, state law and union guidelines as suggested in the committee document. (WTA committee members are: Ronnie Steele, Betsy Hennessy, Maureen Nagel)

Stipends Committee Report

Brad LaBarge: None at this time—updates coming soon! (WTA committee members are: Brad LaBarge, MJ Hoffman, Jackie Senecal)

Health Care Committee Report

Jason Carter: None at this time—updates coming soon! (WTA committee members are: Jason Carter, Nancy Domm, Kim Northrup)

Filing your Taxes - Dues Reminder

If you were a full time member of the union from January 1st 2006 to December 31st 2006, your union dues total was \$599.

To find out how much dues you paid in 2006 look at your last pay-check stub of 2006, which was dated 12/22/2006. Look at the deductions section and find **TEACHERS DUES** in the year to date column - YTD)

WTA PARTICIPATES IN COMMITTEE OF 100!

As posted on the NYSUT website:

“Hundreds of educators, retirees and health care professionals converged at the Capitol in Albany last week (May 13th) to voice support for the governor's education plan, and explain to lawmakers why there is still work to be done.” And WTA member, Beth Peters was there! She, along with other region 5 members met with Mike Nozzolio (senator for our district) and Bob Oaks (assemblyman for WCSD) to encourage continued support for our local districts initiatives and programs. Of particular interest the strength of WCSD's Teacher Resource Center was noted. Beth will be going back to Albany again in May.



NYSUT's new media campaign supports public ed investment and critiques charter and tax credit plans as a 'matter of principle' *New York Teacher - March 12, 2007*

Great public schools for every child are a "matter of principle" and the centerpiece of the union's new statewide media campaign featuring billboards, radio and newspaper advertising. To download a pdf version of the add campaign or to fax your legislator go to:

http://www.nysut.org/cps/rde/xchg/nysut/hs.xsl/newyorkteacher_6944.htm