As I write this we have once again experienced another day where the DOW index had another 300+ point intraday range. The last time it traded in $8000 - $9000 range was 2003, and if you are like me you have probably seen your IRAs and 403b take quite a hit since the all time high we reached in October 2007.

The good news is that Teacher Retirement System is in good shape and your TRS retirement pension is safe.

There is however new IRS laws regarding 403b retirement investments that go into effect January 1st, 2009. As a result of these new regulations some companies have chosen not to continue in the 403b market. Please see the list that follows on page 2 of this issue of Wayne’s World to see the status of your 403b company. This list changes on a regular basis, so please check http://www.omni403b.com for an updated list. Once a company has a Green Check Mark or Red X next to its name then its status is confirmed.

“Green Check Mark”: If you are currently investing through payroll deduction with Wayne CSD in a company that has a “Green Check Mark” next to your 403b company’s name then everything is all set and you do not need to do anything; unless you were already planning on making a change to your 403b.

“Red X”: If your 403b company has a “Red X” next to its name then your company has declined to continue its 403b services with our school district. Therefore if you wish to continue to invest in a 403b you will need to select a new company as of January 1, 2009 as the school district will no longer be able to legally withhold money from your paycheck to invest in your current company if it has a “Red X” next to its name. Depending on your 403b company you may also need to take action with your 403b account.

“No Mark”: If your 403b company has neither a “Green Check Mark or Red X” next to its name, then that company has yet to make a decision as to whether or not it wishes to continue.

To put it simply, if your 403b retirement company does not have a “Green Check Mark” next to its name, then it is strongly recommended that you contact your financial advisor immediately and come up with a plan as to what you are going to do with money currently in that 403b account and a plan as to how you are going to invest in the future if you wish to continue in a 403b after December 31, 2008. Neither Wayne CSD, Omni Group, nor the WTA can provide direct assistance to you on this matter; again, you need to contact your financial advisor or 403b Company.

If you do wish to make a change or modify your 403b payroll deduction in the future, then you need to complete Salary Reduction Agreement through Wayne CSD’s Human Resource office to authorize the deduction.

Happy Investing,
Jason Carter
Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

The 3 R’s:

WTA 3rd Thursday – November 20th! DONUTS
Topics: NYS Teacher Certification Update, Importance of sharing schedules, Seniority Lists

Issues currently being discussed / explored:

• Imbedded trainings and time out of classroom.

Issues acted upon/resolved:

• Spring Break Coalition re: Monroe county spring break schedule
• Building access
• Inclusion coordination pay and summer pay rates.
• RTI training

Rule of thumb #52: “Remember a teacher affects eternity; s/he can never tell where the influence stops” (Henry Brooks Adams)

Dates to Remember:
December 1st, Monday—Rep Council meeting @ HS
December 15th, Monday – deadline to make seniority list concerns known to HR.

Don’t forget to check out www.wayneta.org

NYSUT Field Rep: Jeff Trout
(585)454-5550   jtrout@nysutmail.org

NYS Teacher Retirement System

On Sunday and Monday, November 9th & 10th, Doug Casey attended the NYSTRS delegate meeting in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. As our elected WTA delegate, he brushed up on his knowledge regarding a variety of retirement concerns. Some of the many seminars offered that Doug attended included:

1. Social Security Information
2. A Look at NYSTRS’ New Member Orientation Program
3. The Impact of Divorce, Disability and Death on NYSTRS Benefits
4. The Rules for Working in Retirement
5. The Security of a NYSTRS Pension
6. Choosing a Benefit Option
7. Medicaid Information

Doug is ready to entertain your questions about the retirement system so feel free to forward them directly to him. His job as NYSTRS delegate is to be able to either answer your questions or direct you to a source that can. The web site for NYSTRS, www.nystrs.org is also very helpful. All the information, forms, seminar schedules, etc, can be found on this website.

Doug would also like to draw your attention to something called “prior service” credit. Basically, it may be possible to add service time to you record if you at any time worked for the state, government, or even a town. This information is also available at their website. Remember, you are never too young to start thinking and planning for your retirement!

403 B Fund Participation List Update

✓ Confirmed participating companies:

X Declined contributing Companies:
AIM Distributors, Companion Life Insurance Co., MFS Service Center.

Unmarked Companies: Columbia Management Services, Commonwealth Financial Net, Fidelity Management Trust Co., Ivy Funds, National Financial Services, Putnam Investments VaNGUARD Fiduciary Trust Co.
You might have heard your colleagues talking about MAP, the Member Assistance Program available from NYSUT Member Benefits Trust. Or maybe you’ve already joined. But if you haven’t, you may want to once you read about MAP’s benefits.

By joining MAP, an e-mail based program, you’ll be among the first to hear about new, endorsed programs and program updates. You’ll receive special offers and reminders from Member Benefits or from providers of its endorsed programs. Your opinions will be solicited on new programs under consideration for endorsement. When possible, you’ll help Member Benefits test potential new services and provide feedback.

Often, MAPers are entered into drawings for prizes donated by providers of endorsed programs and Member Benefits. Since MAP’s introduction, MAPers have entered drawings for a Bose® Wave Music System, free admissions to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, 100 gallons of heating oil from Heat USA, a summer fun pack filled with a variety of items, a DVD player and OfficeMax gift cards. In addition, new MAP enrollees and existing MAPers are automatically entered into quarterly drawings; to date, prizes included digital cameras, a cross-cut shredder and an iPod nano.

MAPers receive e-mail communications from Member Benefits and occasionally from its providers of endorsed programs. On average, a MAP e-mail alert is sent once every three weeks.

Rest assured, Member Benefits will only share your e-mail address with endorsed program providers and then only under controlled circumstances. Once a program provider receives approval from Member Benefits to send you an offer or information, the vendor will be required to destroy the e-mail listing after sending the communication.

This exciting program allows you to help shape future programs and services exclusively available to you and your colleagues.

Help make a difference. Become a MAP team member. Enroll on our secure page by logging on to www.memberbenefits.nysut.org and clicking on the “MAP Sign-up” navigation tool on the left-hand side of our home page.

For information about this program or about contractual expense reimbursement/endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please call NYSUT Member Benefits Trust at (800) 826-8101, e-mail benefits@nysutmail.org, visit www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits Trust-endorsed programs.