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Retirement Delegates

Inside This Issue:

The 3 R's: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief 2

NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Ad 3

President's Message



Lots to report in this issue, especially on the political front. Last Tuesday, the voters of the Wayne Central School District overwhelmingly rejected both of the ballot proposals. The WTA respects the will of the people and their vote.

Of course the vote leaves many things still to be decided: in particular what to do about the declining enrollment, an Ontario Elementary building that is significantly outdated (the stone carvings on the wall aren't a class project on the stone-age, they are actual carvings from the stone-age), various repairs and updates needed throughout the district, and the effect of the "no" vote possibly carrying over to the upcoming budget vote. The WTA will be actively monitoring these questions and working toward solutions.

I am pleased to announce that the WTA sponsored

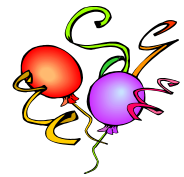
food drive held during the vote was a success! Community members filled up 10 boxes with food to be shared between the Ontario and Walworth Food Pantries. Thanks to all those who donated. We will be having another food drive for the budget vote possibly in May. I say "possibly" because I recently spoke to several legislators in Albany who are considering pushing statewide school budget votes to a summer date as the result of a state budget that may not be completed on time (both seem unlikely: on-time state budget and changing the school vote date). Which brings me to

where I have been earlier this week.

I am back from Albany where I have been advocating on key education issues with our representatives and getting to see first hand some of the dysfunction that is occurring in our state assembly and senate. Long story short—the Democrats blame the Republicans, the Republicans blame the Democrats, and everyone blames the Governor.

Actually, I had several good conversations with our elected officials, although I can't say I agreed with all of them.

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CELEBRATE !

Congratulations to: Everyone!

Music in our Schools Month!
Great concerts and events made possible by great staff!

HS: Harlem Wizards and Suessical!

MS: Welcome to interim principal Scott MacDonell!

OE:

OP: Good luck Greg Atseff as interim principal!

FE: Welcome Bob LaRuche as interim principal!

We wish Jona Wright all the best in her next endeavor!

I see why they call it March Madness—can we find just one more thing to pack in this month—please!?!?!?

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

**WTA 10 Minute Meeting:
Thursday March 18th**



Issues currently being discussed /explored:

- Team leaders - pay equity K-5
- Monitoring school budget development

Issues acted upon/resolved:

- Video surveillance camera concerns

Rule of thumb #61: *"Never prune a tree by cutting off it's roots."* from 3/06/10 Legislative breakfast regarding cuts to education.

Dates to Remember:

March 19- Deadline to nominate candidates for the upcoming WTA District Wide and Officer Elections.

Positions to be elected:

- President & 1st Delegate
- Internal Vice President
- External Vice President & 2nd Delegate
- Delegate (3rd Delegate)
- (3) At-large negotiator positions.

April 15th—7th annual WCSD Family Feud!

April 28—30th—NYSUT RA

Saturday, May 2nd—Alle Shea Walk-n-Wheel for Better Bones!

Call to Action: Keep pressing for the Federal Education Jobs Fund -contact your reps in the House and Senate and let them know that a six-month extension of FMAP is vital to New York and needs to be included in the Senate and the House versions of the Jobs Bill.

Stay Up-to-Date! Check out:

www.wayneta.org/webmail ID is

your WCSD user name

@wayneta.org, password is your NYSUT member ID .

And don't forget

www.nysut.org



All parties seem to be in favor of passing a 55/25 early retirement option and it was stressed that it needs to happen sooner than later. The Senate was busy working on fix to the contingency budget issue which is tied to the lesser of 4% or 120% or CPI. The problem here is that CPI was negative last year, which could be in issue if Wayne and other budgets go down. We actively pursued for a 5 year rolling average in CPI calculation, which the Senate has picked up.

We actively opposed the complete cut in funding for Teacher Resource Centers. All of the legislators I talked to agreed that that TRCs are important, but none seemed to commit to guarantee funding for them. Legislators also agreed with the importance of keeping funding for School Resource Officers, but only a few truly made it clear they would push for keeping the funding when facing cuts to so many areas in the budget.

We spoke out against the devastating cuts both past and proposed for our union brother and sisters in the SUNY, CUNY, and Community College systems. Hopefully legislators won't hit our students, sons, and daughters alike with massive tuition increases in future years. We asked them to reject the governors proposed SUNY/CUNY Higher Education Innovation & Empowerment Act, which contrary to its name actually removes governmental oversight from public institutions and further privatizes the University shifting the burden to families.

One of our biggest discussions focused around the \$1.4 billion Gap Elimination Adjustment proposed in the Governor's budget, which will significantly cut state aide to school districts across the state including ours. This will cause significant layoffs, raise class sizes, and force cuts across the board to public schools. I wish I

could tell you that that even the most die hard education supporters stated they could prevent this from happening, but instead we got quite the opposite. Although they didn't like the idea of the cuts it was pretty much unanimous that we will be lucky if all we get is a \$1.4 billion cut and not a lot more. Hopefully, this is just an example of under-promise/over-deliver where they paint a dismal picture, but come through to some degree in the end.

On top of all of that the WTA is monitoring the State Education Department's proposed changes to APPR, elimination of up to 13 Regents Exams (which seems unlikely now), and potential impacts of Race to the Top funding where New York State has been names as one of sixteen finalist.

In solidarity,

Jason Carter

Legal questions have a way of piling up...

Maybe it's time to consider enrolling in the Legal Service Plan!

Stuff happens. You may be facing a speeding ticket, a house closing, a divorce, identity theft, elderly parent issues, and the list can go on and on. In today's world, at some point, you'll most likely need the advice or services of an attorney.

When that time comes, you can turn to the Legal Service Plan endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Trust.

When you enroll in the plan, you'll receive a multitude of benefits for personal legal matters. Anytime you wish to talk with an attorney, whether for advice or consultation, you have toll-free access weekdays during normal business hours. There's even a toll-free hotline for emergencies occurring beyond these hours.

You'll receive two, hour-long office consultations with a plan attorney, legal document review and legal letters written on your behalf.

If a problem can't be resolved by letter or phone, you'll be referred to a plan attorney. Referral attorneys are located throughout the continental US and charge plan members \$200 an hour or 40 percent less than their standard hourly rate, whichever is lower.

Many personal legal matters have fees that are capped, and there are guaranteed discounts on probate fees and personal injury cases.

Also included is a Legal Security Package each year of plan enrollment. This package includes forms to request a:

- **Simple will** - allows you to select a guardian for your children and beneficiaries of your estate. Without a will in place, the state makes these decisions. A will also speeds up the probate process and makes settling your estate much easier.

- **Power of attorney** - allows you to give another person the right to sign your name and transact your financial affairs.

- **Living will** - enables you to express your wishes regarding end-of-life treatment.

- **Health care proxy** - allows you to appoint someone to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to make them yourself; it also contains directions regarding organ donation.

The plan offers advice and guidance with identity theft issues, debt consolidation and mortgage foreclosure.

You can purchase an Elder Law rider to help you in

your health and estate planning as well as assisting you with these issues for your parents and grandparents.

If you have a business of your own, for example, a rental income property, you can purchase the Business Protection rider to obtain business legal services.

To find out more, call Member Benefits at 800-626-8101. Or go to www.memberbenefits.nysut.org to view or print a brochure and enrollment form. You can also enroll online.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits or refer to your NYSUT Member Benefits Trust Summary Plan Description.

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

Mar/Apr '10