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A Message from the President

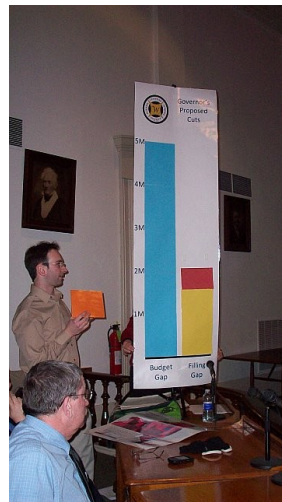
The time is now to support Labor and Public Education!

On Wednesday, March 2, the WTA made their presence felt at the We Are One rally that was held at City Hall in Rochester and joined hundreds of other fellow union brothers and sisters and community members in support Wisconsin workers and all places where labor is under attack. The next upcoming rally is Educate New York: A Rally for Public Education and will be held on Thursday, March 17 at the Liberty Pole in Rochester. Unfortunately, I will not be able to personally make the rally as that is our next contract negotiations meeting with the school district, but I strongly encourage that the WTA send a delegation. If you are interested I have official WTA & NYSUT supports you signs that you can support. Of course feel free to make your own sign to bring along in support of our public schools.



Beth Peters, Jason Carter, Marty Hanley

On Thursday, March 3, I gave a mini-presentation regarding the Governor's proposed \$1.5B budget cut to education at a Town Hall meeting held by NY Assemblymen Bob Oaks and Brian Kolb at the Wayne County Courthouse in Lyons. With the help of Beth Peters the WTA passed out informational packets to community members in attendance. The community responded well to my mini-presentation about the budget cuts and I stayed after the meeting talking to community members and felt like we had good support from them.



Two weeks ago I was featured as a guest columnist in the Wayne County Mail Newspaper and we now have a few volunteers who have agreed to write letters to the editor in area papers. But this is only the beginning of our campaign to support labor and public schools. Now is the time to ask what can I do, and then take the next step by getting involved.

Jason Carter

Volume 1 Issue 6

March 2011

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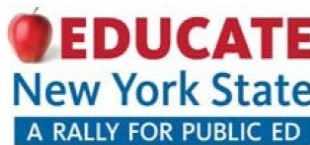
WTA Officers

- Jason Carter (FE), President
- Barb Thiele (OE), Internal VP
- Kim Schultz (MS), External VP
- Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer
- Martha Hanley (FE), Secretary



Rallies to support public education in New York

Rochester: March 17, 5 p.m. at the Liberty Pole downtown.



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

Reminders

Website link for the Action Line:

http://wayne.k12.ny.us/board_education.cfm?subpage=1084362

Negotiators continue to meet on Thursdays. Please remember to give them your input and support.



From the "Trout" Pond- March Trivia:

Name the New York Assemblyman or Senator who recently proposed to change the seniority-based layoff procedures for teachers in New York State.

The first member to contact his/her NYSUT LRS with the correct answer will receive a Wegman's \$10 Gift Card.

February Trivia:

Last year the NYS legislature adopted a law requiring _____ percent of a teacher's annual evaluation score be determined by student achievement growth on local and state assessments.

And the Winner is... Tammy Scheuer

OP/Freewill Art Teacher She was the first unit member to contact Jeff Trout with the correct answer and will receive a \$10 Lowes Gift card.

Issues currently being discussed /explored

*The states proposed cuts and the effect it could have on our district if you have any ideas of how to save money, please let us know

*Everyone is encourage to contact their councilman/legislator as a community member to share concerns about the cuts

*State Assembly is looking at creating a TIER 6

*Concerns about workload issues from all buildings were discussed. RC looking into this

If you don't stand for something...You will fall for anything! Stand up and be heard! We all make a difference!



Benefit for the OI Foundation

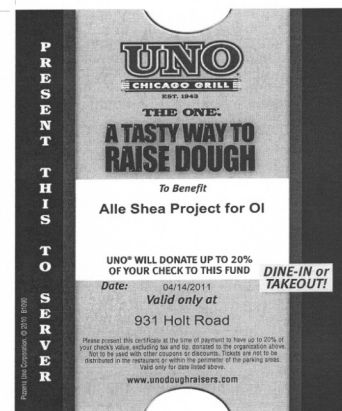
Mrs. Kim Collazo, a Second Grade Teacher at Freewill Elementary School,

1st daughter was born with the rare genetic bone disorder Osteogenesis Imperfecta (brittle bones) and died several weeks after birth.

Please join us at the Uno's Location on Holt Rd, Webster, NY on April 14th for a "Dough" nation day to benefit the OI Foundation. 10-20% of all proceeds will directly benefit the Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation in memory of Alle Shea Collazo

Please copy and bring the ticket below so your food purchase will be counted towards

this well worthwhile cause or e-mail the allesheaproject@yahoo.com and we will send one to you!



What's New from NYSUT?

NYSUT will be launching a million-dollar multimedia statewide campaign early next week to challenge New York state to invest in our students, not in tax breaks for millionaires. This poignant ad will be featured both on television and on the Web, with links on major social networking sites. In a fresh format for us, (see photo at right) it tells a story that makes clear the dramatic choices facing New York in this budget season. Links to the ad will appear on both our Facebook page and our homepage, and we urge you to "like" it on Facebook and circulate it to your members. It is complemented by print ads directed to our elected leaders in Albany dispelling the myth that New York is 34th in educational attainment and sharing the facts on what devastation more cuts will cause. This campaign theme will be enhanced with specific media messaging and "earned" media -- the op eds and opinion pieces that we don't pay for, but which advance our message. It builds on the "It's What We Do" identity campaign, which is on a brief hiatus as we fill the airwaves with our latest spot.

Advocacy in Albany: NYSUT is pushing back on all fronts

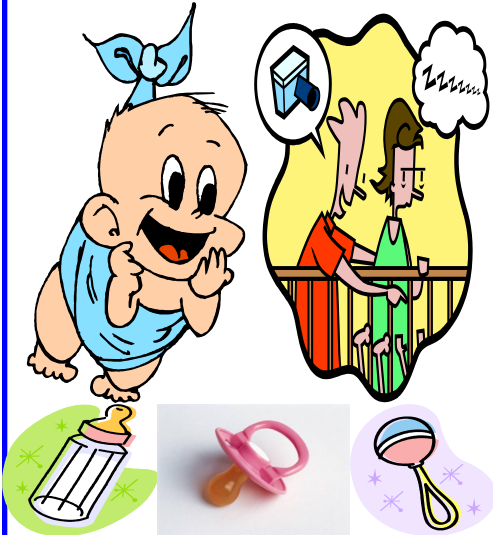
The past eight days has seen a flurry of grassroots activity at the Capitol and around the state as members of NYSUT local unions stand up to defend the jobs, services and labor rights that are threatened by cuts proposed in the executive budget. Starting with the Higher Education testimony to the legislature last week, the action crescendoed to Tuesday when hundreds of volunteer NYSUT political activists descended on the Capitol for an extraordinary Committee of 100. The day also featured pre-K-12 testimony, the BO-CES lobby day and the UFT legislative briefing. Check the calendar (pdf) for a list of upcoming legislative events and lobbying opportunities, leading up to and beyond the Committee of 100 March 21-22. This just in: The state Assembly has scheduled a public hearing on the executive's proposed tax-cap bill for 10 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, in Albany. (Photo: Hundreds pick up material at the extraordinary lobbying day.)

Welcome Back to

Tara Mateo (MS)

Elizabeth Green (MS/HS)

Both returning from maternity leave, and excited to be back. Although we all know how hard it is to leave those little ones at home!

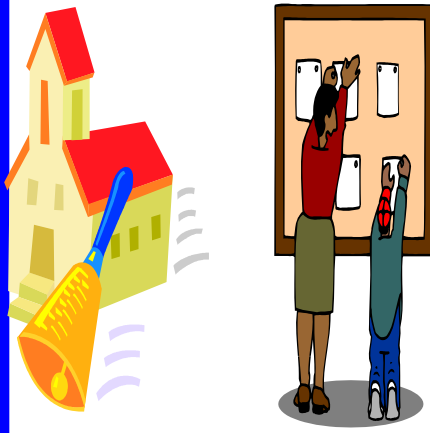


Congratulations

Don't forget to vote!!!

Martha Hanley has been nominated to the AFT as an Everyday Hero! She truly represents an involved union professional at all levels within our FE community!

Tammy Scheuer
OP/Freewill Art Teacher She was the first unit member to contact Jeff Trout with the correct answer and will receive a \$10 Lowes Gift card.



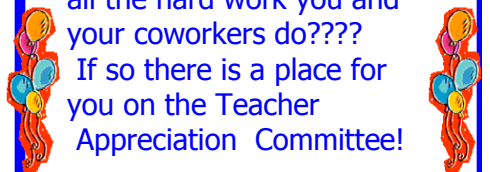
Committee Members still needed

Still Waiting!

We still need members for our Social Committee and our Teacher Appreciation Committee. So if you are the social sort, and would like to be part of setting up social gatherings for you and your fellow WTA Members join the social committee, we could all use a night out once in a while!

Maybe you like to make or design things. Wouldn't it be great to be part of the committee that recognizes all the hard work you and your coworkers do????

If so there is a place for you on the Teacher Appreciation Committee!



Information to Know

The grassroots "Don't erase our progress" card campaign is generating so much participation that we are already doubling the number of cards we printed. If you need more than you received, send a message immediately to legislate@nysutmail.org. Here's an important note about allocation of delegates for the 2011 NEA RA

- 2011 NYSUT RA Reminders: Proposed Resolutions for the NYSUT RA will be posted on the website March 1. ... The NYSUT RA notice of election, notice of nomination, and campaign and election procedures were published in the January issue of NYSUT United. The NYSUT Board of Directors approved a redistricting plan that implemented the requirement for a redistricting of NYSUT election districts to accommodate the increase in membership as a result of the unification with NEA-NY. Please view the District Map and ED List for more details.
Course fee reduced: The online defensive driving course offered by the National Safety Council and endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits Corp. has been reduced for NYSUT members to \$21.95 per person.
NYSUT's 2011 Professional Issues Forum on Health Care is April 30 in Albany. Register online at www.nysut.org. The deadline is April 1!"

Dear Governor Cuomo" video contest **We have a Voice...and a Video Camera**

The Governor has proposed a \$1.5 billion cut to our schools. This is in addition to last year's \$1.4 billion cut that devastated communities across our state. In 3 minutes or less, tell the Governor exactly why your school can't take another round of huge budget cuts. It's important that he hears your story.

The contest is open to everyone. Prizes include 3 iPads and a \$1,000 award to purchase educational materials or services for a public school classroom or a youth-service organization.



New financial education services offer something for everyone

If you're looking for information on financial services available to you as a NYSUT member, NYSUT Member Benefits may have something just for you. Considerable efforts have been put forth in creating new printed material as well as new presentations. Both in-service and retiree members can benefit.

403(b) Field Guide. This booklet covers all aspects of 403(b) plans and includes information pertinent to members not yet contributing to a 403(b) plan, those who are contributing, those nearing retirement, and those already enjoying retirement.

To get the free guide, you can view and print a copy from the Member Benefits website, www.memberbenefits.nysut.org, hit the "Contact" option on the site to send an e-mail request, or call **800-626-8101** for a copy to be sent to you.

403(b) Provider-Specific Workshop. Member Benefits contracted with the provider of its endorsed Financial Counseling Program, Stacey Braun Associates, Inc., to conduct these workshops upon request from local leaders. The workshop covers detailed information on five 403(b) providers chosen by the local leader from a list of 10 popular 403(b) providers. Workshops review the features of each plan, comparing fees and benefits. These workshops are designed for in-service members.

Workshops have a registration fee of \$20 per participant and a minimum requirement of 30 participants. A local could schedule this workshop as a webinar for a fee of \$250.

Workshops will not address specific questions pertaining to an individual's 403(b) plan. Members with questions regarding personal 403(b) accounts or other financial planning issues will be directed to speak with their 403(b) adviser or their financial planner. For those who don't have an adviser or planner, information on the endorsed Financial Counseling Program will also be available.

Financial Planning Puzzle Workshop. Today's economy has clarified the need for a financial plan; unfortunately, for many, beginning a financial plan remains a daunting task.

This two-hour workshop, designed for in-service members, outlines the process, covering cash management, risk management, savings, retirement and estate planning.

The Challenging Times of Financial Management – The Retirement Years. Financial planning doesn't stop at retirement. This one-hour presentation discusses the various investment options you may face during retirement along with helpful information regarding your 403(b) plan, Social Security benefits, income taxes and more.



For information about these programs or about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits.

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