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## A Message from the President

This past weekend I was given the opportunity to attend the annual NYSTRS delegate conference near Albany. I am proud to say that I am a member of one of the best pension systems in the entire country. Our pension system is strong and has remained 100% funded even during these difficult economic times.

While you may hear the claim that the taxpayers are shouldering the burden for our system, the fact is 86% of NYSTRS income over the last 20 years has come from investment returns. In fact for the last 25 years, which has included 3 economic recessions, the NYSTRS's average annual return was almost 10%.

Approximately 80% of NYSTRS retirees live in New York state generating \$4 billion in income for our residents who in turn support our local businesses and state. According to the research group NIRS each \$1 invested in the system supports nearly \$10 in economic activity and retiree spending supported nearly 137,000 jobs, all in New York state.

You may have read in one of several Wayne County newspapers an article from the Wayne Finger Lakes Superintendent Association claiming that TRS system payments have increased 1,693 percent in the past 8 years. While this may be statistically true, it is only because

they picked the 2002-2003 school year as a starting point when the rate was close to zero. Mathematically any increase above a number close to zero will seem huge. Of course in that vein if I wanted to be misleading with statistics I could point out that the rate since 1983 to 2003, 20 years, decreased approximately 99%.

However, statistics also show that cost to manage a 401(k) direct contribution retirement style plan has a management cost of \$1.25 to \$2.00 for every \$100 of assets, which is a significantly higher cost than our NYSTRS pension which comes in at a mere \$.07 per \$100 of assets. A significant savings over a 401(k) style plan.

For a brief update on the negotiation process, our negotiation team just completed interest based negotiation training, along with the district and building principals, who are also in the process of negotiating their contract as well. Our WTA negotiators appreciate the feedback they were given in our most recent negotiation surveys and will be meeting several times in early December before meeting with the district at the "table" the week of December 13th.

Sincerely,  
Jason Carter

Volume 1 Issue 3

November 2010

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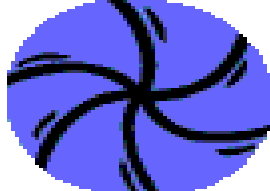
### WTA Officers

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

Our building negotiators are going this month for negotiation training. Since it has been awhile, and we have new building negotiators, the people we elected to negotiate our contract for us will be trained in the "Win-Win" style of negotiation. I don't know about you, but I hope we all win!



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

<p><b>Dates to Remember</b></p> <p><b>November 11—Veteran's Day</b></p> <p><b>November 12 — Parent Teacher Conferences</b></p> <p><b>November 14-20-American Education Week— Remember...We are <i>The Best!</i></b></p> <p><b>December 13th Monday—</b> Rep council mtg at OP</p> 	<p>From the <i>"Trout"</i> Pond</p> <p>Jeff Trout has offered us a chance to win a gift card with monthly trivia questions, so here goes!</p> <p><b>November Trivia:</b> What is the salary of your district superintendent? The first unit member to respond with the correct answer will receive a \$10 Wegman's Card. 585-454-5550 (Office) jtrout@nysutmail.org</p>	<p>Issues currently being discussed /explored:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Parent Teacher Conference times for April</li> <li>*Teachers Schedules</li> <li>*Negotiations</li> <li>*Dependents on your medical contact (questions should be referred to Chapman Kelly)</li> </ul>	<p><b>If all anyone ever thinks about is themselves...</b></p> <p><b>There would be no greater good, and usually what is good for one, is good for everyone involved!</b></p> 
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The German club recently hosted 16 German exchange students from our sister school in Weil der Stadt, Germany as participants in the German-American Partnership Program (GAPP). For two weeks, our German guests stayed with families of students who are learning German at the high school. During their stay, students enjoyed field trips to Niagara Falls, Corning Museum of Glass and Mt. Hope Cemetery and many other Rochester-area favorites!

The German students also took in a Wayne football game and enjoyed a "real American" Halloween celebration. Next up, the Wayne students who were hosts will be traveling to Germany in April for three weeks to visit Weil der Stadt and travel around southern Germany.

### What's New from NYSUT?

#### **Deadline looms for districts' RTTT final scope of work**

Local leaders should be aware that districts' Final Scope of Work for RTTT must be submitted to the State Education Department by Monday, Nov. 8. While districts don't need sign off from the union on the final scope of work, they will need signoff to access the funds for teacher evaluation. As we have said in the past, collective bargaining agreements including the new teacher evaluation system do not have to be negotiated now, despite what some superintendents and school attorneys are saying. Placeholder language will allow you to settle the rest of the contract now and return to the evaluation pieces after the regulations are adopted by the Regents.

#### **Elections are over; but our work continues**

NYSUT's officers thank you and give credit to the union's leaders and members for helping to elect about 90 percent of NYSUT-endorsed candidates on Election Day. In New York, we can be proud that union activism helped carry the day for pro-labor candidates: U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand; Attorney General Schneiderman; and Comptroller DiNapoli. As expected, Andrew Cuomo is our new governor.

"You will see in the days ahead NYSUT working with measured determination to establish common ground with our new governor and other elected leaders, and to do our part to move New York forward," said NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi. "But make no mistake, we will adhere without compromise to the principles we have established to guide and direct our union."

Welcome

Tara & Cat Mateo welcomed their daughter (Ileiahna) yesterday 10-24-10 @ 9:21 a.m. 8lbs. 30z.

Kim Collazo and her husband Angelo Elle Joy Collazo to their family on November 11 at 7:59 AM. She is 8 lbs 11 oz and 20 inches.

Elizabeth Green and her husband welcomed their new son Caleb Anthony Green born on 11/12/10 at 11:36 pm.



Congratulations

Stephanie Collins was married to Dave Pulcini on October 2nd



October is ...

School Board Recognition Month

On Thursday October 28th, the WTA presented the School Board with a gift of thanks for all their hard work and support for the staff and students of the Wayne Central School District. On hand were President Jason Carter and External Vice President Kim Schultz to express our deepest thanks, and present the board members with a gift.



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 you your work and co-



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Here's your chance... Tell the state what you think about the Common Core State Standards

Call for public feedback on additions to the Common Core State Standards from October 20th- November 29th 2010. I appreciate your help!

On July 19th, 2010, New York State adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects and CCSS for Mathematics. The Board of Regents would like your feedback on recommended student expectations to add to the Common Core State Standards. To support the state's adoption plan, a group of P-12 and higher education English Language Arts and Mathematics practitioners met in Albany in July 2010 to analyze the Common Core State Standards to determine if there are necessary additions for New York State (up to 15% of the whole).

To access the recommended additions and related surveys for English Language Arts and Mathematics, please go to [http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common\\_core\\_standards/](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/ciai/common_core_standards/) and click on the appropriate link to the subjects. **The surveys will be available from October 20th, 2010 until November 29th, 2010.**

In January 2011, the Board of Regents will review the recommendations and determine if they approve the additions, resulting in a new set of P-12 English Language Arts and Literacy Standards and P-12 Mathematics Standards. Any questions about the surveys may be sent to [emscur-ric@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:emscur-ric@mail.nysed.gov).

## Look at what your NYSUT membership brings you!

Your NYSUT membership gives you access to a variety of benefit programs and services endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits. Every endorsed program is monitored on a regular basis for participation, member satisfaction, utilization, financial health and product competitiveness.

**Insurance plans** include term life, disability, auto, home, boat, personal excess liability (umbrella), long-term care, catastrophe major medical, flexible premium adjustable life, vision and retiree dental.

**Financial and legal services** include a financial counseling program, online banking (money markets, savings and CDs), mortgages, credit monitoring service, consumer credit counseling services, and a legal service plan.

**Discounts** include TripMark.travel (hotels, flights, cruises and more), Wyndham Hotels & Endless Vacation Rentals, Motivano Online Marketplace, EPIC Hearing Service Plan, Powell's Books, OfficeMax, Bose, Barnes & Noble.com, Working Advantage (discount tickets and more), Philips Lifeline, car and truck rentals, Six Flags, Buyer's Edge Inc. (buying service), HEAT USA and Defensive Driving (online or classroom). Be sure to check the Member Benefits website, [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org), for particulars on these discounts, because some you can only receive by linking off the Member Benefits site. Many have unique ID numbers.

**Other services** include MAP (Member Alert Program), an e-mail information service; payroll and pension deduction of Member Benefits-endorsed programs, which often yield reduced premiums or additional coverage; MPP (My Program Participation), an online look-up service on programs in which you participate; Consumer's Guides on Automobile Insurance, Homeowners and Renters Insurance, Legal Services, Long-Term Care Insurance, Long-Term Disability Insurance and 403(b) Plans; and MetDESK (Division of Estate Planning for Special Kids).



**Workshops** include Identity Theft, 403(b) Basics, 403(b) Employer Contributions, Inside the 403(b), Unraveling the Mysteries of Credit and Credit Reports and The Financial Planning Puzzle. Workshops are scheduled by your local president, chapter leader, retiree council leader or retiree chapter leader.

To request information, call Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 or visit [www.memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://www.memberbenefits.nysut.org).

Some benefits may not be available in all local associations.



For information about these programs or 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.

Nov./Dec. '10