President’s Message

The new year has arrived and with it comes a budget proposal from our Governor. This year our Governor has proposed a hefty -$114,493 (approx) state aid increase (technically a decrease) for the Wayne Central School District. This is estimated after taking into account total state aid, which actually went down - $225,925 and building reorganizational aid. So once again Wayne Central finds themselves on the short end of the stick when it comes to getting a state aid increase for the next school year. In Wayne County 9 out of 11 school districts will see a decrease in total state aid.

Amongst many other concerns in the Governor’s proposed budget, funding for Teacher Resource Centers has been cut to zero. There are two TRCs in Wayne County, one at WFL BOCES which is housed in Newark and our very own Wayne TRC, housed in the middle school. The WTA will be launching a political action campaign around school aid and TRC funding. Stay tuned for more details and be ready for action. If you have not recently gone to the NYSUT political action campaign website, please do so and send a fax to your Albany representative regarding these topics. Many members have been asking about a projected vote date for the proposed contract between WTA and District. The process of finalizing language has gone slower than anticipated, and factoring that we are about to have a week off for February break, and I need to give a window of time for you to review final language, I am revising my estimate for a vote date until after February break.

Sincerely,

Jason Carter

Support Teacher Resource Centers

Jason Carter, who is both the President of the WTA and the Wayne County Education Federation is shown handing a letter to state Assemblyman Bob Oaks. The letter was signed by all of the local presidents in the Wayne County Education Federation and calls for funding to be restored in next year’s budget for Teacher Resource Centers in Wayne County. A letter from the WCEF was also given to Senator Nozzolio, as well as letters where signed by the WTA Rep Council that were mailed to both Oaks and Nozzolio.
The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

**Dates to Remember:**

Februrary 18th-22nd — Winter Recess

Nominations will begin for WTA Officer positions in March. Start thinking about potential nominations.

**Issues Currently Being Discussed/Explored**

**Rep. Council checking on the timeline for midterm grades**

**Concerns about the ending of multiage were shared**

**Rep Council will get clarification on teacher absences**

**Safety concerns were shared**

**Rep. Council looking into clarifying PTC**

"If you are going to do anything, you must expect criticism. But it’s better to be a doer than a critic. The doer moves; the critic stands still, and is passed by." —Bruce Barton

"I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist and that there are as few as there are any other great artists. Teaching might even be the greatest of the arts since the medium is the human mind and spirit." —John Steinbeck

**Acronym of the Month - Sort of...Flex**

**Explanation of Boxes 12 and 14 on your W2 Form**

What is FLEX, and Why is it on My W-2????????????????

FLEX is a term the government uses for deductions that lower your income, and that you do not pay taxes on, such as your contribution, or the portion that you pay for your health, and or dental insurance. So the amount that is showing up in box 14 on your W-2 form shows your cost of your health and dental plans plus anything you contribute to a medical flex account IF you have such an account. So Flex is what the Government calls anything you have deducted from your pay, for your health, that decreases your taxable income.

Who knows...It’s the GOVERNMENT!!!!!

Box 12a shows the actual cost of your Health Insurance and or Dental Insurance.

Both of these boxes are for informational purposes only.
Celebrate
National School Counseling Week!

A “lifeline” for members, students and the community

National School Counseling Week • February 4-8, 2013

National School Counseling Week highlights the unique contributions of counselors in our nation’s schools. The week is sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, which represents professional counselors nationwide. “School Counseling: Liberty and Learning for All,” is the 2013 theme. In light of recent events, mental health professionals have been invaluable in providing support to students, NYSUT members and the community.
Given this wonderful news, all of us should take a look at our retirement benefits and start planning for the future no matter where you are in your career. Start by visiting the NYSTRS website (http://nystrs.org/main/retirement-planning/). You can find a host of helpful resources – from handbooks describing our benefits, videos on various retirement topics, PREP seminar information, learn about how to maximize your FAS (final average salary), and so much more.

Additionally, you should have/will shortly receive your annual Benefits Profile. Review the information contained in this publication to check the accuracy of your service credit; review your pension projections, disability benefits, and death benefits/beneficiaries; and find information on acquiring loans through your retirement contributions. Finally, your EmpId is located on the first page of this mailing. This number is necessary to sign up for a MyNYSTRS account on the NYSTRS website. By signing up you have electronic access to your current and past benefit profiles, tax forms, loan calculators and the loan application.

Please contact Liz Waring, Retirement Delegate, with your questions or for more information.
Photo above: Beth Peters is shown filling out “Valentine’s Cards” to state legislators. This political action campaign was created by the Canandaigua NYSUT local and calls for Albany to adequately fund public education in NY.

Photo Left: Kim Schultz is shown speaking with State Senator Ted O’Brien. Ted has been very support of public education.

Photo below: Beth Peters and the President of the West Irondequoit NYSUT local are shown speaking with state Assemblyman Joe Morelle. Joe was recently named Majority Leader in the NY State Assembly.

Throw out the lifeline!

Donate to NYSUT’s Disaster Relief Fund

Representing more than 600,000 professionals in education and health care.

www.nysut.org/disasterrelief
Legal & financial plans available to NYSUT members!

NYSUT members can get quality legal and financial assistance for themselves and their families by purchasing the Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan or Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program.

Legal assistance when you need it!
For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning.

With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys. In addition, when you enroll in the plan, you'll receive two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

The plan also provides for one Simple Will or update at no charge each year, along with a Durable Power of Attorney, Living Will and Health Care Proxy – important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of $85 per year or $55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

**Please note that if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its Benefit Fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.

Financial expertise customized for your situation
The Financial Counseling Program – provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. – offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation.

Through the program, you'll learn how to properly invest your assets to build a college savings or retirement fund; what to look for when purchasing or financing a home; and tips for getting your credit under control.

This full-service program provides you with up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

In-person consultations are available at least once per calendar year at each NYSUT Regional Office as well as at Stacey Braun's New York City office. The program also includes access to Stacey Braun's password-protected website and a 24-hour email helpdesk for basic financial questions.

NYSUT members can purchase the Financial Counseling Program for an annual fee of $260. A 403(b) Limited Plan is also available for an annual fee of $185.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

Learn more about either of these endorsed programs by contacting Member Benefits at 800-626-8101 or visiting memberbenefits.nysut.org.

For information 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.