President’s Message

Thank you to everyone who helped during our grassroots campaign to make sure that the Wayne County Supervisors kept their agreement with schools and continued to share sales tax revenue with them. This money will enable school districts of Wayne County to continue to provide a quality education. The Supervisors will also be creating a committee with educational officials to look at taxes and ways to form increased partnerships between the county and schools. Our collective effort clearly made a difference with the County Supervisors and we will need to continue that effort when the county looks at the budget again in the last quarter of 2014.

Governor Andrew Cuomo also released his proposed budget for the 2014-2015 school year. Overall, there are significant concerns about his proposal, but at least for the first time in many years Wayne Central is listed as receiving a decent increase. (You can find a chart of our state aid run on page 3 of this newsletter). However, at this point the state aid runs are only a proposal and there can be significant swings in how much money we receive from the proposal to the final state aid run in a passed budget. The New York state budget is due on April 1, and I expect that it will probably be passed in Albany just before that deadline.

The total amount of aid proposed statewide by the governor is still less than it was in 2008. While the proposal calls for increased full day pre-K and after school activities, there is not sufficient money budgeted nor any details about where such money could come from. There is also concern around a proposed “Teacher Excellence Fund”, which appears to be pushing for merit pay. Another idea that will need to be closely examined is Cuomo’s call for a property bill tax freeze. While the idea may be popular for property tax payers, it will likely create problems for increasing school funding at the local level.

Sincerely,
Jason Carter

Retirement Incentive Deadlines (Contractual)

If you are planning on retiring at the end of the school year the deadline for submitting your letter of intent to the district in order to receive the contractual incentive is 150 days before the effective date, which would be February 1, 2013. This deadline only applies to people who are seeking the incentive contractual language and would not apply to retirees, who are not in the retirement incentive window.
### Dates to Remember:
- **February 3rd** — 1/2 day Staff Development
- **February 10th** — Rep Council Meeting at FE
- **February 17-21st** — February Recess

### Issues Currently Being Discussed/Explored
- *Schedules*
- *Construction*
- *APPR/SLO*
- *PD Time*
- *Calendar*

### The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts.
C. S. Lewis

### The one exclusive sign of thorough knowledge is the power of teaching.
Aristotle

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### PreP is Pension & Retirement Education Program
Members of all ages should be reviewing and planning for their retirement. One way to do this is to attend a NYSTRS Pension & Retirement Education Program (PreP) seminar. For information on the winter and spring seminars (dates, locations and topics), please visit: [http://www.nystrs.org/main/retirement-planning/preplan-seminars.htm](http://www.nystrs.org/main/retirement-planning/preplan-seminars.htm)

Thank you Liz Waring Retirement Delegate!

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### Call to Committees
Most Buildings still need members on some of the WTA Committees.

- American Education
- Audit
- BOE Liaison
- Communication/ Newsletter
- Constitution
- Nominations and Elections
- Scholarship
- Social/Sunshine
- Student Recognition

- Teacher Recognition
- VOTE COPE/ Political Action
- Weisenreder/ Community Outreach

Check with your building Reps to see how you can help! Remember...It Takes a Village!
Call for a motion of no confidence in Commissioner King

In an interview with Liz Benjamin on Capitol Tonight on Jan. 9, NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi stated that he will be asking the Board of Directors to approve a resolution to bring before the delegates at the RA for a vote of no confidence in state Education Commissioner John King. Despite the tremendous outcry from parents and educators about SED’s botched implementation of the Common Core, Commissioner King continues to stall and tinker around the edges. Meanwhile, the clock is ticking and children, teachers and principals will soon face another round of flawed exams and high-stakes consequences as a result of SED’s flawed process. The Commissioner fails to recognize and fix the problems, and we cannot count on him to do what is needed to turn things around.

Last week, Iannuzzi said "mounting frustration" over King's refusal to listen to concerns from parents and teachers, and make necessary course corrections would lead him to seek a "no confidence" vote from the union's Board of Directors this month, and from NYSUT's Representative Assembly in April. NYSUT is calling for a three-year moratorium on high-stakes consequences for students and teachers from standardized testing to give SED time to "get it right." Iannuzzi said a three-year moratorium "would allow New York State to make amendments to the Common Core, incorporating input from experienced educators in curriculum development and achieving better alignment of assessments and instruction before attaching high-stakes consequences."

School Aid 2014 Executive Budget. 2014-2015 School Year