President’s Message

It appears that Spring has finally arrived, the snow is almost melted (perhaps for good this time), the days are getting longer, and the temperature is getting warmer.

A lot is also changing in our union as well. Beth Peters, Kim Schultz, and I recently attended the annual NYSUT RA this past week in New York City. At the RA a new set of NYSUT officers was elected to serve our members. You can read a message from the new NYSUT President Karen Magee on page 4 of this news article.

In addition to the changing of the guard at NYSUT headquarters in Albany, I have been given a position in NYSUT as VC Coordinator for the Rochester Region. I will continue on as President of the WTA for the remainder of the current school year, with my resignation as WTA President taking place on June 30, 2014. Current WTA Internal VP Michele Farley will take over as WTA President on July 1, 2014 and will serve as Acting-President for the reminder of the current term which expires on June 30, 2015.

As part of the transition process, I will still be serving in full as WTA president for the reminder of the school year. However, as we get closer to the end of the school year, if you have a union issue or question that would carry over into the next school year, I would ask that you carbon copy Michele Farley into the correspondence so she can be up to speed when the next school year starts.

This Spring also brought an on-time budget for NY State. Like every budget it has some good points and bad points. First some of the good news. Teacher Center funding has been restored to the prior year’s level of $14.26 million. This will be important to Wayne since our own Teaching and Learning Center receives its funding from this grant. The budget also restores $368,000 to New York State’s National Board Certification grant program. Wayne Central is proud to have a number of its members who have achieved National Board Certification.

The state also set aside $340 million to fund statewide Universal Pre-K, with $300 million going to NYC and $40 million going to the entire rest of NY State. However, Kindergarten itself is still not mandated in New York State, so it is possible that in some districts that while they may not be able to afford to have Kindergarten, they may be able to provide full day Pre-K through this grant. I guess kids can take a year off between Pre-K and first grade. Maybe tour Europe or something.

School aid has been increased by $1.12 billion for all of (Continued on next page)
NY, which is a $500 million increase above what the governor proposed back in January. Wayne Central’s (Total Aid) increased from $13,057,658 for the current school year to $15,186,237 for the next school year (2014-2015). Wayne Central was also allocated $1,433,099 for the SMART SCHOOLS bond. This bond will be brought before voters during the general election in November and would allow districts to make enhancements in technology.

The budget contains some testing reforms that include a ban on Pre-K-2 standardized testing, limits on time devoted to testing, and a moratorium on students’ test scores on grades 3-8 ELA and Math. No school district may place or include a student’s score on these assessments either in their transcript or the student’s permanent record. The State Education Commissioner must provide a clear and conspicuous notice to parents that the ELA & Math NYS assessment scores will not be included in a students transcript or permanent record. So basically, our leaders in Albany voted to ban the use of students’ scores on the NYS Grades 3-8 ELA and Math assessments for the reasons of what they are calling a failed roll-out of Common Core by the State Ed Department, and questioned the validity of the state assessments themselves. That being said, our elected leaders in Albany then voted that while the NYS Grades 3-8 scores my not be used against students, they must be fully used against teachers on their APPR scores that they will receive at the end of this school year. These provisions for students will last until 2018.

The budget also includes a standardized testing audit, that requires that the amount of time devoted to administered state assessments can not be more than one percent of the minimum required annual instructional hours for grades giving the state tests. For school districts the amount of time spent, “practicing” for these state assessments under standardized testing conditions cannot exceed two percent of the annual instructional hours for these grade levels.

In the budget there was also something called a “Teacher Excellence Fund”. This fund sets aside $10 million dollars statewide for teachers who receive an APPR score rating of Highly Effective. Up to a $20,000 annual supplement can be awarded to these teachers. There are a number of problems with this. First, there is not enough money in the $10 million allocated statewide to pay all of the teachers who received a rating of “highly effective” last year. Second, it is nearly impossible for our 3-8 ELA and Math teachers to receive this rating, as well as some other WTA members are eliminated automatically altogether. The details of the plan are not fully out yet. But the WTA along with every other NYSUT local will be required to make a decision regarding the “Teacher Excellence Fund” tentatively by May 15 of this year. The tentative recommendation, until we see the actual details, by our WTA Rep Council as well as countless other NYSUT locals will be to divide any money awarded equally amongst all members as we recognize it takes a team of teachers across all grade levels to achieve student success. If this money can not be divided equally, then we recommend to not accept any of the money and believe that the state should include it in the school aid formulas.

The budget also includes various regulations regarding charter schools. It is also important to note that there is a group in the process of creating a charter school that would impact our area. There will be a public hearing scheduled for April 22nd at Midlakes HS auditorium. This is a concern for public schools because an average loss of $12,000 per student will be incurred for every student that switches from a public school to this potential new charter school.

I also highly encourage all of you to complete the NYSUT APPR survey, which has been attached to the same email as this newsletter and can also be found on the WTA website. The survey is due by May 2, 2014.

Sincerely,
Jason Carter
The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

**Dates to Remember:**
- Week of April 1st — ELA and Math Exams
- April 7th — Rep. Council Meeting @ MS
- April 14th-18th — April Recess

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issues Currently Being Discussed/Explored</th>
<th>Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Schedules</em></td>
<td>Robert Frost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Construction</em></td>
<td>He who opens a school door, closes a prison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>APPR/SLO</em></td>
<td>Victor Hugo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>PD Time</em></td>
<td>If only those who fund both understood!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Calendar</em></td>
<td>The amount for union dues for 2013, assuming you worked the full year as a full time member, would be $706.02.</td>
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**Draft Recommendations for Changes in APPR: Submit your feedback by Friday, May 2**

NYSUT local presidents are asked to weigh in on draft recommendations for changing APPR developed by the union’s APPR Workgroup.

Formed in response to an April 2013 RA resolution, the APPR Workgroup was charged with recommending changes in state requirements for teachers’ Annual Professional Performance Reviews (APPR). To further this work, NYSUT surveyed local presidents on problems with the current APPR process and held focus groups of teachers and parents to supplement survey findings. The workgroup, comprising local presidents from around the state, developed five recommendations calling for significant changes in the state’s approach to APPR. Those recommendations were reviewed by the NYSUT Policy Council and will go to the Board of Directors after input from locals.

WTA President Jason Carter is asking all WTA members to convey their feedback (Please read Draft Recommendations for Changes in APPR from NYSUT) by completing a form that is posted on the WTA website as well as attached to the original email that was sent when this Wayne's World was distributed. There are two ways to complete the form. You can fill the PDF document out, save, and then email to wtapresident@wayneta.org; or you can print, fill out form, and then interoffice mail to Jason Carter at Freewill Elementary (FE).

The completed forms will be mailed to NYSUT by the WTA, after the May 2 deadline for you to complete form.
**Legislature seats four Regents**

New York students and educators need Regents who will set sound educational policies and not be a rubber stamp to everything the commissioner proposes. Despite outcries over the failed implementation of the Regents reform agenda, the Legislature re-elected three incumbent Regents -- Wade Norwood of Rochester, Christine Cea of Staten Island and James Cottrell of Brooklyn -- and elected Monticello Village Justice Josephine Finn as a new member to fill a vacancy. NYSUT will continue to hold the Board, the Chancellor and the Commissioner accountable. Five seats on the Board of Regents will be up for election next year and, as a result of our advocacy, people will be paying attention to what the Regents do -- or don't do.

**SED makes changes to APPR guidance**

SED revised its APPR guidance following the Regents' adoption of policy adjustments recommended by the Regents Task Force. These revisions address the elimination of standardized tests in grades K-2 and the use of school-wide measures based on the state ELA and math tests for middle school social studies and science teachers. They also confirm that students enrolled in Regents algebra in eighth grade will not also be required to take the eighth grade math assessment. The guidance addresses the expedited review process to be used when there is a material change related only to reducing standardized tests, and attempts to define what is meant by standardized tests.

Any new plan submitted will include an assurance in the certification page, which must be signed by local presidents, that addresses a new requirement that no more than 1 percent of total instructional time will be spent taking any standardized tests for APPR purposes. The APPR guidance document does not describe how to apply this rule, but SED has released a separate Q&A titled "Certifying Instruction Time" that helps to define what is included in this 1 percent and suggestions for calculating the time on tests.


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**Congratulations**

Michelle Peck had a baby boy on Feb. 25: **Davis Nelson Peck** 5lbs. 13 oz. and 17" long.

Erin Lincoln and husband Tim had a baby girl 1/28: **Maris Kathleen** 8lbs. 11oz

Shaun & Kristina (Stiles) Fennessy are the proud parents of **Colin Michael Fennessy**.

The WTA welcomes a new member and teacher at OP: Lisa Northrop.

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**WTA At-large Negotiator Election Results**

The following people were elected to serve as your At-Large Negotiator and will serve a 2 year term from July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2016.

Matt Angell  
Betsy Hennessy  
Jean Stein

The Building Level Negotiators along with a new WTA Vice President will be elected on May 15, 2014. The nomination period for this election will take place April 21 to April 25.
A Message From NYSUT's New President

Sisters and Brothers:
On behalf of our new team of NYSUT officers, thank you for your record-breaking participation in last week's elections and the NYSUT Representative Assembly. I'm honored to be your president, and to serve with the great team elected at the RA. We promised to be the collective voice for change that public officials can't ignore -- and developments this week suggest that message is already getting through.

I spoke yesterday with Gov. Cuomo, who called to re-establish communications with NYSUT. No, we haven't endorsed Gov. Cuomo and that's not what this is about. We are, however, going to seize every opportunity to be the voice he can't ignore, and this is a step in that direction. We will forcefully and specifically communicate the impact his harmful policies are having on our members and our communities, and push for the changes we are collectively demanding. As I said at the RA, we will defend public education and public service. Period!

In an unprecedented outreach, State Education Commissioner John King called on my first day as your president and asked to meet. That meeting at NYSUT headquarters is coming up. This was a clear response to our unanimous vote of "no confidence" at the RA and opens a channel of communications that we will maximize on your behalf. Our "no confidence" resolution has delivered an unmistakable message.

With great support from NYSUT staff, we are hard at work. In our first week, we began developing NYSUT's next budget with a focus on maximizing resources and minimizing expenses. We are dedicated to ensuring NYSUT's continued financial health, strengthening transparency, and making sure your dues dollars are used wisely. We will be traveling to every corner of the state to meet with you, our members, and every NYSUT constituency so that our collective wisdom and experience can shape the future of NYSUT. Above all, we are committed to serving every member, leader and local.

I'm grateful for all that you have done, and all you will do, as together, we fight the battles that lie ahead and answer the call to "BE THE UNION."

In solidarity,

Karen Magee
NYSUT President

The NYSUT officers are, left to right, Secretary-Treasurer Martin Messner, Vice President Catalina Fortino, President Karen Magee, Executive Vice President Andrew Pallotta and Vice President Paul Pecorale.
NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the endorsement of the member shopping program powered by PayCheck Direct for roll-out this spring 2014.

This program – part of the national retail powerhouse Bluestem Brands, Inc. family, which also includes Fingerhut and Gettington.com – allows individuals to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months.

Through PayCheck Direct, NYSUT members & their families will have to access to more than 7,000 name-brand products such as appliances, televisions, computers, electronics, furniture, and much more.

Members would have the option of paying for any items they purchase interest-free over a 12-month period; bi-weekly payments would be made via automatic checking account withdrawals.

PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

As part of this endorsement, PayCheck Direct will mail merchandise catalogs to the NYSUT membership four times per year.

NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card.

We are excited to be launching this new program in spring 2014! Join our MAP (Member Alert Program) Alert email service to be among the first to learn more about this program (visit the Member Benefits website for sign-up instructions).

You can also visit memberbenefits.nysut.org in the coming weeks for details on how to use this service or call 800-626-8101 with any questions.
AD from the Brockport Teachers’ Association

The Brockport Teachers Association is partnering with the Stoneyard Bar and Grill (located on 1 Main Street right next to the Erie Canal) to honor the memory of Michael Pratt. Mike was a retired Monroe County Sheriff who came to work for the Brockport Central School District and shared his passion of photography. Mike was able to capture the essence of our students, both on and off the field.

Mike’s wife is a SEIU member in our District. The BTA reached out to her and asked if we could create a scholarship honoring a student in Brockport that shares the same passion for art and photography that Mike held. On Friday April 25th the BTA and Stoneyard Bar and Grill will be hosting a social event in order to raise money for a scholarship in Mike’s name. There will be a silent auction with all the proceeds from the auction going to the scholarship. There will be food and drink specials. I hope to see many of you there. Please wear any union apparel you own so that we may showcase our unity!

Respectfully,

Orlando Benzan
Brockport TA President

Join us for a fundraiser for the Michael L Pratt Memorial Scholarship

Friday, April 25th, 2014 3:00pm-8:00pm
Stoneyard Bar and Grill, 1 Main Street, Brockport

- Food and drink specials
- Silent Auction (proceeds go directly to the Scholarship fund)

Sponsored by Brockport Teacher’s Association and The Stoneyard Bar and Grill

If you prefer to donate in Mike’s memory, make checks payable to:
Brockport Teacher’s Association (memo: Pratt Scholarship)
c/o Brockport High School
40 Allen Street
Brockport, NY 14420