As you know I will be stepping down as WTA President to concentrate on my new role as NYSUT’s VOTE-COPE coordinator for the Rochester Region. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your President these past years. I am thankful for all of the members who helped me along the way over the years including members who have served on our Exec and Rep Council, negotiators, and everyone who has served on one of our many WTA committees, as well as our NY-SUT Labor Relations Specialist Jeff Trout and the staff of the NYSUT Rochester Regional Office..

As part of my new role as VOTE-COPE coordinator I work with locals in raising money for VOTE COPE NYSUT’s political action fund. I encourage every WTA member who has not yet done so to increase their voluntary donation to VOTE-COPE by at least 50 cents per paycheck for the next school year. You can see you building rep if you haven’t already done this.

If you have been following the news, you may know that a California court just decided that tenure and seniority for teachers is an unconstitutional practice and can no longer be done. The case is currently on appeal, and only applies at this point to California. However, a political action group in New York called Partnership for Educational Justice has just announced their plans to eliminate tenure and seniority in New York. Once again highlighting the need for your donation to VOTE-COPE.

On another note there is also a case that is soon to be decided in the US Supreme Court, possibly on Monday, June 30 that could have a major impact on unions across the county. NYSUT and local union leaders are actively monitoring the case and are prepared for a variety of possible outcomes.

Sincerely,
Jason Carter

WTA APPR Ratified

In Wednesday’s election the WTA ratified the APPR plan for the 2014-2015 school year. The document will be emailed and posted on our WTA webpage for you to access. As a reminder their will be an election to fill the vacant WTA At-large negotiator position on Friday, September 12. Candidates who have accepted to run for this position will be highlighted when we return report back to school for our first day in September.
The 3 R’s: Remarks, Reminders, and Relief!

**Dates to Remember:**
- Rep Council Meeting @ TBD
- August 20th 9:00Am
- Last Day for Students
  - June 23rd
- Last Day for Staff
  - June 25th

**Issues Currently Being Discussed/Explored**
- *Construction*
- *Workload/Year*
- *Subs – Lack of Subs and coverage*
- *Negotiations*

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”
- Nelson Mandela

“Time is like a bank account you never know the balance of.”
- Author Unknown

“You should always be aware of how you spend it!”
- Me

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**MER—Major Eye Roll**

An MER is when someone says or does something, and you just cannot believe it...You know you all do it. You roll your eyes, so to add another acronym to our lives I came up with MER...Major Eye Roll...Feel free to use it whenever you would like!

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The Federal Government & IRS have made available to you the Tax Sheltered Annuity for Educators, Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue code enables you as a school district employee to keep significant dollars in Federal and/or State Taxes. This Tax Sheltered Annuity is completely deductible from taxes. This will replace your IRA (Individual Retirement Account).

To learn more about this program which you are eligible for, please use the "Information Request Form" below and we will drop off some information at your school.

…on the beach, or in my recliner reading a good book, enjoying my morning cup of coffee instead of gulping it down to rush out to school. 😊

In order to relax like that in retirement I will need to be financially prepared. One way to prepare is to attend a NYSTRS Pension & Retirement Education Program (PREP) seminar. And, what could be more convenient than a summer session?

Take a moment to consider attending a PREP seminar yourself by reviewing the upcoming summer seminar dates: [http://www.nystrs.org/main/retirement-planning/preplan-seminars.htm](http://www.nystrs.org/main/retirement-planning/preplan-seminars.htm)

Thank you Liz Waring our Retirement Delegate
News from NYSUT

Karen's Notes: Good News ... and Disturbing News

Let me start with good news: Our advocacy for 853 schools and Special Act districts is bearing fruit! This week the state announced a much-needed 3.8 percent reimbursement rate increase for 853s and Special Acts -- real progress even as we continue to press for the full funding they deserve.

Strategic advocacy was also on the agenda at NYSUT's well-attended conference for members who work in 4201 schools -- the private, state-supported schools that serve students who are deaf, blind and/or physically disabled. Check out the coverage and photos. Members in special needs schools are truly unsung heroes and we're committed to highlighting the important work they do.

Talks continue round-the-clock on our legislative priorities ... and I wouldn't be surprised if they go right down to the wire. Our new pro-moratorium video is getting a lot of traffic for the message: "A teacher is more than a test score... Tell lawmakers to evaluate THAT."

A lower court judge in California issued a horrendous ruling this week dismantling teachers' rights in that state -- a meritless decision that will be appealed. As our statement makes clear, this case is not applicable in New York state, but it illustrates once again the disturbing and deep-pocketed war against unions.

Finally, on a happy note, kudos to Westchester-Putnam retirees who hosted an outstanding conference featuring remarks by Comptroller Tom DiNapoli. (Photo at right: President Karen Magee with state Comptroller Tom DiNapoli.)

And congratulations to these two locals that celebrated the 10th anniversary of their charters this spring: the Monticello Central School District Secretarial Association, led by Christine Simon, and the Cornell University Adjunct Faculty Federation Upstate, led by Richard Lipsitz.

Editor's note: For more, follow Karen on her new Twitter handle @karenmageenysut .... Hear her WAMC commentary, an appearance on Capitol Connection and today's interview with Susan Arbetter on WCNY Capital Pressroom when it is posted.

Online Study to Fit Your Schedule from NYSUT and NEA

Over 20 graduate courses are available through NYSUT ELT, the online education provider that serves members statewide. Convenient, research-based, and best practice let you study where and when it’s best for you!

The NEA Foundation Launches New Online Courses to Support Educators

The NEA Foundation offers 16 open-sourced online courses, providing union and district leaders with the knowledge and skills needed to transform public education. The courses offer ways to ensure better collaboration among education stakeholders and provide a forum to strengthen schools through team-based problem solving. The research-based knowledge and approaches provided in the courses are intended to help build leadership and teacher-led professional growth.
Gale McAndrew is retiring this year, with 30 years of teaching total and 24 years here at Wayne. Both the Middle School and Ontario Elementary were fortunate to have her teach our students. Gale would be the person with the spring in her step and a big smile on her face as she greeted you while on her way to meetings for Team Leader for 6th grade, Department Chair for Middle School Science, District PDT or OE BPT. While Gale will cherish all of her memories at Wayne, she especially enjoyed the Smile Day Assemblies at OE. She loved hearing the kids singing the songs created by Mr. Herendeen. Another fun time for her was the Annual 6th Grade Fossil Field Trip to East Bethany and Alden, NY. She exclaimed, “Even after twenty years, every year was as exciting as the first!” 5th grade won’t be the same without her, but knowing Gale, she’ll find many other ways to occupy her time!

Running into Retirement….Sylvia Hungerford will be retiring after 30 years as an all around educator and teacher. She has taught within the district for 28 years, subbed all over the WCSD, and spent 2 years at the Wayne area Vocational Center. After several years at Thomas C. Armstrong Middle School, Sylvia chose to finish up her career at Freewill Elementary School. As a special education teacher she encouraged her students and helped them find success in their education. She also served several years in the Wayne Teachers’ Association as a building rep and continually advocated to protect our worker rights. On the race course, whether it is at Johnny’s Run Like Hell and St. Patrick’s Day events or a ½ marathon at Disney with her daughter Amy, she is a motivating force. Mickey didn’t stand a chance as Sylvia usually places, winning at least a ribbon in her age bracket. In her spare time (I know right!?!), she is also an avid musician and plays clarinet in not one but two local community bands, Clayton and Webster! She has even been seen on the Freewill stage practicing with the 5th grade band for their holiday show. So what will Sylvia be doing in her retirement? Does she even know how to slow down? Well, five grandkids are guaranteed to keep her running and in shape. I hear she is passionate about the 1000 Islands and spending time at the cottage along the St. Lawrence River. She also loves to travel. How about a Scandinavian Cruise in September? I hear that she has booked her passage already- I wonder if we can sneak aboard with her!?! I can already tell that she will be running laps around the world! She did mention that she would be available to sub… really Syl?! Well she will just have to let us know when she is ready after all her adventures. Obviously her energy will be missed. Congratulations and happy retirement Sylvia!

----- From your Freewill and WCSD family.
Congratulations to Jen Yerkes (MS) and her husband on the birth of their new baby boy... Carter Thomas Yerkes at the end of April. He is a whooping 8lbs 6oz and 20” long. The family is doing well!

Congratulations to Erica Wagner (OP) and her husband on the birth of their daughter Lyla born on May 8th. She is a healthy 8 lbs even and 20 1/2 inches long! The family is doing well!

Congratulations to Nancy Golden-Gulino who is a GRANDMA! Nancy's daughter, Schuyler Francis, had a baby boy. Her grandson, Hudson Ciro was born on June 5th and weighing at 6 lbs 10 ounces and 19 inches!

This year we bid farewell to a special reading teacher as Kathy Walker retires from Wayne Central after 13 years of teaching in our district. A veteran of 25+ years in teaching, Kathy started her career in Special Education at the elementary level and moved on to secondary. Originally from Pittsburg, PA, Kathy has two children and one grandchild that she looks forward to spending lots of time with in the future. Kathy and her husband, John, who is currently superintendent at North-Rose Wolcott, are planning to go on a cruise to Montreal in the fall and then will move on to visiting the National Parks in their RV. Kathy has truly been an inspiration to many students during her distinguished teaching career and will be missed. Good luck, Kathy, and enjoy your retirement!
TRY SOMETHING NEW THIS SUMMER WITH A FUN AND UNIQUE CAMP!

Looking for something exciting and different to try this summer? Why not fence this summer?

Our En Garde Beginner Fencing Camp is a full day camp run by the Rochester Fencing Club where campers will learn the basic fencing stance, movements, blocks, and attacks. Fencing activities and games are used to improve fitness, balance, agility, and hand-eye coordination. Creative fencing projects and games will be part of the fun each afternoon. Fencers will participate in a small tournament on Friday where parents will be invited to come and watch what their camper have learned throughout the week. This camp will prepare you to enter into our on-going youth or advanced beginner classes if desired. Equipment is provided.

Here is some quick info:

WHO: Open to anyone 6-12 years old.

WHEN: July 21st-25th from 9:00AM-3:00PM. Please bring a lunch, we have a fridge available to store the lunches.

WHERE: At RFC'S MAIN LOCATION 777 Culver Road, Rochester, NY 14609. For a map and more details on the camp, please follow the registration link below.

HOW MUCH: $225 per participant. If there is a second camper (sibling) the fee for the sibling is $200. Please note that one camper will be charged the full rate and the second will be charged the discounted rate.

WE ARE OFFERING A $50 discount to all Wayne Central School District Employees. You can enter coupon code WAYNE at checkout to receive the discount on your entire registration.

To contact us for more information you can email camps@rocfencing.com or call us at 585-654-6047.
Programs designed specifically for NYSUT members

Get expert legal assistance today!

The NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed Legal Service Plan -- provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. -- offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters ranging from dealing with a speeding ticket to handling estate planning.

- Low annual cost of just $85 ($55 for retirees)
- Unlimited toll-free legal advice
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- Two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney

Don't wait to get the legal assistance you need. Learn more about the plan today!

**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.

Time for an insurance check-up!

Find out what your insurance policies currently cover

Keep your policies in a secure, fire-proof location

Determine if you have enough coverage to meet your needs today and in the future

We encourage you to check out the variety of quality, competitive insurance programs endorsed by NYSUT Member Benefits, including Term & Level Term Life Insurance; Disability Insurance; and MetLife Auto & Home Insurance, among many others.

Learn more about these endorsed programs and many others by calling 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.
You’re Invited:
LGBT Educator Appreciation Reception

WE ARE ONE

Thursday July 17 • 5:30–7:30 p.m.
The “Char Room” in the Strathallan Hotel
550 East Ave, Rochester, NY 14607
— hors d’oeuvres provided free, cash bar —

An opportunity for LGBT educators to network and be appreciated for all they do. The repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” represented a major civil rights victory for LGBT members of the Armed Forces. For thousands of gay teachers serving on the frontlines of America’s classrooms, the concepts of prejudice and fear behind “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” remain a painful fact of life. LGBT teachers have long understood that openly expressing their identity in school can make them an easy target for discrimination. The event will provide an informal and open forum for LGBT educators to discuss issues both related and unrelated to being LGBT in educational communities. Allies are welcome to join in the festivities. Sponsored by NYSUT.

For more information, contact Rich Ognibene, 2008 New York State Teacher of the Year
rognibene@hotmail.com • (585) 281-6240

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A Union of Professionals