



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

## 3rd Thursdays— 10 Minute Meeting

May 15th - Free Donuts!  
10 minutes

Topic: Health Insurance



## Health Benefits Fair

- May 19th—23rd
- New 1 x Open Enrollment period from May 19th thru June 19th.
- New health plan options



85% of the top 1/5 of the wealthiest people in America send their children to **Public Schools!** 40,000 people registered for the NY State Education Rally and a record breaking attendance for any rally in Albany was set that day at approximately 50,000 people actually in attendance! NEA New York membership is about 44,000 members strong.

Yet, today only 13% of American workers are unionized as compared with 33% at the height of the unionization movement.

Your educational union makes good sense. We are public education, from pre-K to higher education and our voice is strong. We are out there every day advocating for you and for what you/we believe in. Our union researches best practices and provides invaluable training and support. But we are only as strong as you make us.

Here is how you can help yourself, your profession, your colleagues, . . . Locally there are several ways to become involved:

- The American Education Committee,
- Communications Committee,
- Teacher Recognition Committee,
- Student Recognition Committee
- Social Committee,
- Weisenreider/Community Outreach

## Rule of Thumb # 6

*“Know your health plan coverage—be an informed consumer.”*

## WTA Issues acted upon:

- Starting salaries reviewed for compliance with contract (done annually).
- Compensation to be given for K-3 literacy computer training.
- Job Share to be offered again in 2003-04.

## Issues under consideration:

- Compensation for curriculum development by unit plan.
- Elementary Special Education committee . . . . .
- 2003-2004 school calendar.

## Rule of thumb #7

*“If ever you feel that you are being accused of actions inappropriately ask for union representation immediately.”*

# Super Charge Yourself the NEA Way!

- Committee,
- Nominations Committee,
- Political Action Committee,
- Scholarship Committee,
- Constitution Committee,
- Board of Education Liaison Committee, and
- Newsletter Committee.
- There are several elected positions in WTA: officers, building level representatives, negotiators, and delegates that represent us at the state level.
- Leadership trainings are offered twice per year , the next one is being held August 4th—7th right here in Rochester at RIT. These are great and applicable to any organizing effort from the classroom to large scale efforts. You can learn more about unions, communication, school boards, grievances, bargaining, legal issues, and more. We want you to take advantage of these opportunities.

The most interesting thing going on at the national level is bipartisan bashing of America's schools. . . . It is our responsibility to take action, . . . We have to be the ones to teach them.”

At the state level we have several committees guiding the position, stance and educational direction here in NY state. These committee usually meet about 2 times per year and membership is open to any NEA member. These committees are:

1. Career and Technical Education
2. Educational Support Professionals
3. Human Rights
4. Instructional Professional Development
5. Legislative/Political Action Coordinating Council
6. Multicultural Affairs
7. Retirement
8. Special Education
9. Technology
10. Community College

“The most interesting thing going on at the national level is bipartisan bashing of America's schools. . . . It is our responsibility to take action, . . . We have to be the ones to teach them.” While the government seems to be walking away from it's commitment to children, it's workers, and public education—we can not.

It's actually very simple to become involved. Talk to your building rep, e-mail one of us officers, make a commitment to yourself to take a stand wherever your passion lies. It's a great way to re-awaken yourself , to mix it up a bit, get to know others in the district or the state. Feed your passion . Let the difference you make every day become super charged !

As Greg Nash, our NEA NY current President stated in the April Advocate,