

WAYNE'S WORLD

WTA/NEA-NY

WTA Newsletter

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President's Message



Happy St. Patrick's Day. Perhaps an Irish wish is in order:

"Whatever this upcoming year might bring, whatever path you take, whatever joy or hardship comes your way, may it go well, may you face it with strength and know that all of life is a journey."

Actually, it is a quote from Blanca Mastbuam-Kane, the Latin Mama. I just liked the message.

This month, with so many changes facing each of us, we need to gather strength in friendships and colleagues. Your WTA representatives and officers are doing a tremendous

job representing your needs. But the federal government is discussing removing the rights of employees and bargaining. NEA has asked each president to attach this paragraph in the monthly mailings to members.

SAVE WORKERS RIGHTS – *Congress is on the verge of destroying basic rights and protections for hundreds of thousands of civilian employees at the Department of Defense; a move that could have huge repercussions for labor rights everywhere. Visit www.nea.org/lac/union/ to learn about the attack on workers and to get information you can use to write to your*

Senator or Representative in Washington. Keep in mind: what happens in Washington often trickles down to the state and local level. Stop the slide before it begins. Act now!

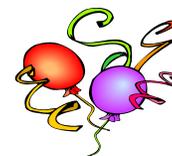
We are fortunate at Wayne Central School District to have the support necessary when our conditions are compromised. The District listens and responds after dialogues about what is best for students. All districts and businesses do not have this trust. I know its hard to find time to write our Senators, but thankfully someone is taking care of our journey.

Now, if I could just pick the right path.....

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CELEBRATE !

Additions to the Wayne Family!

Amy Tobin gave birth to baby Thomas Robert on 3/4/05. Jackie Senecal gave birth to Tyler James on 3/3/05. Rumor has it that the stork is still flying near by!

Scholarship Committee Slam Dunks! \$125 was raised at the 3 point shoot out organized by Donna Schumacher and Greg Geesler ! Thank you!

Congratulations to all for your hard work and team effort with regard to this year's ELA scores!

Welcome aboard to Alan Eagle and Erin O'Brien who will be joining the WTA team for this year's Delegate Assembly in Albany coming up in April.

Tis the Season to Think \$\$\$\$\$

We have added an additional financial seminar compliments of AXA and Dan Dipaola. They have arranged for a specialist in Long Term Care to present and be available to answer questions. Patricia Morse, LTC specialist, will be the guest speaker on **Wednesday, March 16th, from 3:30 until 5:00 PM.** The presentation will take place in Patricia Thomas's room at Ontario Primary School. You can RSVP to Patricia Thomas or you may call Dan Dipaola

directly at 585-375-8421. Remember it's never too early or too late to begin thinking about your future.

Mike Kramer, from the Legend Group has **changed a few of his upcoming dates** for being available to answer your financial questions. Please note the new dates for your building as follows: Monday, May 9 — MS, Tuesday, May 10 — FE, Wednesday, May 11 — HS. This is the week before the previously scheduled week.

A: NO! You can not use a personal day before a Holiday to qualify for reduced air fair!

Of course you all knew that!

And the winner was Terry Lindsay! Congratulations!

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

3rd Thursday, March 17th

Topic: NEA/ NY should we merge with NY-SUT?!!??



Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ Makeup procedure for Spec. Ed. services missed.
- ◆ CARE teams at MS and HS?
- ◆ 2005/06 school calendar.
- ◆ Extended day at HS

Issues acted upon/discussed:

- ◆ Represented a teacher regarding an HR issue.
- ◆ Agreed upon membership criteria of Professional Development Team.

NEA/NY UniServ Representative:

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Rule of thumb #22: *If you don't speak*

up—no one will hear you! (especially in Albany and Washington D.C.)

WTA Dues for 2004—2005:

Full time = \$570.00
Part Time = \$289.50
Additional Teacher Tax Credit = \$250.

Save The Date: *Friday, April 8th at the Ontario Golf Club 3:30 - until ? Let's all not worry and be happy!*

Political Action—Yes You Can!



We all know that we need to speak up, that our public servants are just that—OUR public servants, however for many of us (like me) sitting down to write that letter often seems like an ominous task.

Since participating in the annual Lobby Day events with WTA and NEA/NY, I have learned much about the process. Believe it or not, it has turned me into a believer! Who knew I was such a skeptic. If you could have only seen me, yeah me, telling Senator Alesi's staffer about some ideas we have at NEA– NY for generating revenue to help the education budget!!!!

We all have our opinions and definitely know how to express them over a beer or with a friend. Now it's time to get real. So take the plunge and make that contact—its as simple as 1, 2, 3. Time is of the essence. April 1st, the due date for the state budget, is less than 20 days away.

Here's the 1,2,3 for NY State action:

1. Use the NEA-NY website at www.nea-ny.org

2. Look for the Legislative Action Box on the right hand side and click on “e-mail your state representative” (you will need to know your 9 digit zip code when you get there though, so if you need to look that up first do that before going to the e-mail section).
3. Click on the word **state** in the sentence that says, “**send a message to your Federal/State legislator**” and it will take you to an action alert where you will need that 9 digit zip code. Once you enter your zip code a form pops up and you fill in the blanks and then submit your personal letter!

For National level action the NEA.org site is even easier to use!

1. Go to **NEA.org** and look for the yellow side bars on the left.
2. Click on the bar that reads “**Legislative Action Center**”
3. You can select your issue and respond, check voting records, sign current petitions, get how to directions for writing letters to legislators or newspaper editors, find out the

priorities, etc.

It doesn't get any easier or faster than this. It took me about 15 minutes even having to do the extra zip code look up and with making a few mistakes! You do need to have a specific issue in mind when writing and remember to ask for the action you want. Each building should have a copy of this year's legislative priorities on your WTA bulletin board. In a nut shell the 6 priority issues that we are lobbying for are:

- ⇒ On Time Budget
- ⇒ Charter School Moratorium
- ⇒ Community College Funding
- ⇒ Retiree Health Legislation (Yes)
- ⇒ Tier V Retirement Plan (NO)
- ⇒ BOCES Funding

If you are interested in seeing the actual proposed budget put forth by the assembly, check out the link below:
<http://www.assembly.state.ny.us/comm/WAM/2005BudgRes/>

One more option—the much preferred personal visit to your local rep's home office– They want to hear from you!

Thank you WTA members for your generous support of NEA's effort to raise funds for the Educational International Tsunami Relief Fund!

Our contribution will be over \$250.00

50/50 Raffle winners were:

- OP - Lisa Ocque (\$58.50) who then donated it to a family in need at OP!
- OE - Kathy Bristol (\$79) who then donated it back!
- FE - Mel Stevenson (\$15)
- MS - Sylvia Hungerford's grandchildren (\$70)!
- HS -Teresa Lawrence (\$45)

