

WAYNE'S WORLD WTA/NEA- NY

WTA Newsletter

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The Art of Keeping Up...



Dear WTA Members,

This seems to be the time of year when I overhear staff members talking about their 7 hour projects and Option B's.

"We're reading *The Out-of-Sync Child*."

"This Lucy Caulkins program is intense."

"I've been trying some of Eric Jensen's brain activities."

"One of the latest theories is that..."

"Have you read *The World is Flat*?"

As educators, it is impossible to continue to function effectively in the classroom without constantly learning more.

If you're looking for ideas, I'd like to recommend the book *Restitution: Restructuring School Discipline* by Diane Chelsom Gossen (New View Publications, 1996). Mr.

LaRuche and I do a

lot of teaming when we work with students, and when I mentioned that I liked the way he structured discussions, he steered me to Gossen. Basing her model on William

Glasser's Control Theory and W.E. Deming's principles of school management, Gossen focuses on the child learning a better way to behave rather than concentrating on the misdemeanor itself.

She talks about the 4 illusions of control: that we can control the student, that all positive reinforcement works and is beneficial, that criticism and guilt build character, and that adults have the right to coerce.

Gossen says restitution is the action of repairing a damage done, providing an individual with an opportunity to make reparation and reclaim self-esteem, and become stronger than before they

erred. The art is knowing when to do what, finding the time to do it, and knowing what to do if the student is uncooperative.

She says a good restitution will be viewed by the victim as adequate compensation, will require effort, and won't encourage repetition. In addition, it may be relevant to the general area of the mistake, be tied to a higher value, and result in a strengthening of the child.

A lot of what she says sound remarkably familiar to words I heard come from my mom and dad!

Please let me know of other good books that are out there. I hope you have (or will have had a restful and fun break)! We're close to the finish line.

Sincerely,
Lori Sensenbach



Consulting the School Law Book

Q: Can teachers be asked to teach outside of their content area?

A: School Law 8:39

"(A teacher may be assigned) to instruct a subject outside his or her certification area for no more than five classroom hours

of teaching per week when no certified or qualified teacher is available for that position, despite extensive recruitment efforts (8 NYCRR § 80-50.3)."

According to 8:39, the superintendent must within 20 days of making an incidental teaching assignment, file an application

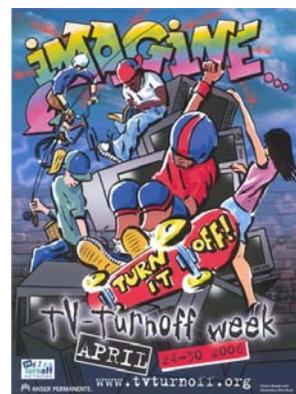
with the commissioner, in accordance with the commissioner's regulations, for approval of the assignment.

School Law, 30th Edition
New York States School Boards Association, New York State Bar Association, 2004, pg 196.



Baby News:

- Lisa Ocque (OP) had a baby boy, April 21st. Gregory Ross is 7lb.14 oz!
- Ronnie Steele (HS) became a first-time Grandma in January. Baby Anna Dorothea was 6 lbs, 11 oz.
- The Kieron boys arrived on March 28th! Jacob Robert was 5lbs. 2 ozs. and Lucas James weighed in at 5lbs. 6 ozs. Dan Kieron (FE) is a very proud papa!



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

**3rd Thursday,
April 27th**
**Topic: Merger—
changes that effect us.**



- ◆ Membership issue resolved.
- ◆ Contractual committees (stipends, supplemental benefits and professional conduct) members appointed.

ings have recently been posted for special education, coaching positions, and summer employment.

- Check out www.nysut.org

Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ Harassment issue
- ◆ Certification areas.
- ◆ MS scheduling

Rule of thumb #30: “NEA, NYSUT, AFT, AFL-CIO = working together—and together we are stronger.”

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Issues acted upon/resolved:

- ◆ Long term sub vs. unencumbered position issue resolved.
- ◆ Speech therapist assignments clarified.

Don't forget to:

- **VOTE** for your next WTA officers on Wednesday, **April 26th!**
- **Check the school bulletin board**—a number of job open-

A great letter to the Buffalo News from a NYSUT local president. Subject: *Like charters? Try charter police or fire departments.* . . . <http://www.buffalonews.com/editorial/20060407/1039928.asp>



Delegate Assembly!

On Friday, April 28th, the NEA—NY state Delegate Assembly will begin right here in downtown Rochester. It is destined to be a historic event as on Saturday the final vote regarding the merger with NYSUT will be held.

NEA-NY has been charged by past Delegate assemblies to continue on this path of unification. This vote that will be taken on Saturday will determine whether this plan will lift-off or die. If all goes according to the wishes of previous Delegate Assemblies, the vote will be in favor of the bylaws and constitution that have been drafted and NEA-NY will unify with NYSUT this summer.

So what does all this mean for us? There will be changes and some things will stay the same. There are always tradeoffs. Most importantly

we will be maintaining the health and quality of an educational state union.

What stays the same:

- Our NEA national affiliation will still be there for us. Any benefits you currently have through NEA you will continue to keep.
- NEA-NY elected officers will join the newly merged organization as board members of the new union—continuing to be there for us and represent our concerns
- Jeff Trout will continue to be our uni-serve rep!

What changes:

- We must change our WTA constitution and bylaws to be consistent with the new organization.
- Union ways of doing business at the regional and state level may vary from our old ways.

- NYSUT offers many services, trainings, etc that we can take advantage of right here locally through the downtown Rochester office (on Union St. you may have seen it!).
- Dues will be higher, but increases will be less drastic as adjustments are made to bring us all in line.
- Quantity of personal service may change as Jeff will have many more locals to represent.
- Lobbying power in Albany will be greatly enhanced as we move forward with a single voice for education.

This year 6 WTA delegates will be attending the State Delegate Assembly and making history. They are: Lori Sensenbach, Maureen Doyle, Beth Peters, Marc Binsack, Erin O'Brien, and Jason Carter.

WTA Constitution and Bylaws to Change!

Assuming that the merger vote will pass at both the NEA—NY and NYSUT Delegate assemblies we will be charged with updating our bylaws and constitution prior to June 30th. Therefore, the WTA constitution committee has met to review the recommendations made by our state organizations and to role these changes out to you.

We have written and presented to the rep council the, “*Authorizing amendment to local affiliate's constitution and bylaws to effect change of New York State affiliate of the Wayne Teachers' Association.*” It was accepted unanimously and will be presented to the membership next month for a secret ballot vote. It is the topic

of discussion at this Thursday's 10-minute meeting.

WTA Bylaws, pg 9, #107 Bylaw 12—Amendments, Section 1 &2: Amendments shall be submitted to the Rep council in writing. . . (and voted on), a majority of the active members casting secret ballot votes shall be necessary for the adoption of the amendment. . .