

WAYNE'S WORLD

WTA/NEA-NY

WTA Newsletter

Pat Yates (OP), President
Lori Sensenbach (OP), Acting President
Maureen Doyle (MS), Acting Internal VP
Elizabeth Peters (FE), External VP
Lisa Twitchell (HS), Treasurer
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The New Year's R Words



Holiday hustle and bustle, challenges and changes - after the chaos of the holiday shopping and family get togethers die down, we tend to turn our focus to taking stock and making **resolutions** of how this upcoming year can be better. For a few the new year brings the **reality of retirement!** As a **reminder**, our contract provides an incentive if you are leaving during your 55th year of age. To be eligible for the incentive, you must make sure all of the following criteria are met:

1. You must be a full time WCSD ten month professional employee with ten years of continuous service in the district.
2. You have or will reach the age of 55 within the school year and are a member of the NYSTRS.
3. You have submitted a

written notice of intent to retire by February 1st, immediately prior to the specified expected retirement date. (example—an eligible employee who decides to retire in June of 206 must submit an irrevocable letter of retirement to be received in the office of the Superintendent, no later than February 1st of 2006)

The purpose of the February deadline is to allow for accurate budgets to be formed. In the event of unforeseen severe reasons, the Superintendent may allow the member to withdraw his/her letter of intent. In any case, if all of these requirements are met, our contract incentive states that the member will be credited \$60.00 per sick day up to a maximum of 188 sick days. That potentially translates to \$11,280 of incentive money for you!

More good news—in response to an interest of WTA members, a Memorandum of Understanding was formalized in August 2004 that changed the distribution of the incentive to be an employer contribution to a tax sheltered annuity (TSA). This change saves the member and the District the FICA contribution (approximately 7.65%). In the previous example that would be a savings of over \$800.00!

If you have questions or just want to discuss retirement, Tom Gentile and Doug Casey both at the HS are our district representatives. You can also check out the New York State Teacher's Retirement System at www.nystrs.org

Happy Holidays,

Lori Sensenbach

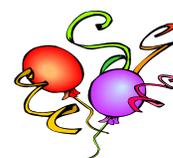
Jolly O' St Pat?

Who is that with those rosy, puffy cheeks and filled with good cheer hanging out at Strong Hospital this week? Is it Santa's helper with that pixie short hair cut come to call on the patients there? Wait a minute—That's our

Pat Yates. Never fear though—she is just having a short stay to get a bout of cellulites under control and hopes to be back home this Friday. She shared, that it felt so good to be back at school even if it was utterly exhausting.

She has decided to listen to Bob (LaRuche), family and friends though and will stay out to enjoy the Holidays and return again in the new year! As always she is happy to hear from you!

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CELEBRATE !

Welcome Aboard! to:

Newly appointed HS Building Representative—Georgia LoCicero (great to have you back!)
Maureen Nagle from the MS who will be replacing Christa Sirowi when she goes on maternity leave.

Special Recognitions:

Congratulations and welcome to Joe Syracuse as the new High School Principal (He finally graduated from Elementary school!).

Union Trivia

Q: May superintendent conference days be counted for the purpose of student attendance when a district attempts to meet the required minimum number of student instructional days?

1st one to notify our uni-serve rep wins an Eastview Mall gift certificate!

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

3rd Thursday— December 14

**Topic: Professionalism:
What you need to know!**

As always—we hope you enjoyed the donuts too!



Issues currently being explored:

- ◆ APPR committee meeting re: summative evaluation forms.
- ◆ Evaluation of Block Schedules at the HS.
- ◆ Literacy coaches role at the MS.

Issues acted upon/discussed:

- ◆ Supervisory pay is a negotiable item, currently you must have

prior approval from the superintendent.

- ◆ Budget process and training.

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ Support the Community Outreach and Weisenreider fund and get your **50/50 raffle** tickets now—**winners will be drawn on Friday, December 16th!**
- ◆ **NEA/NY Scholarship** forms are currently available and are due Feb 15, 2006. See your building rep to get an application if you child will be graduating this year!
- ◆ Retirement Incentive letters due to the Superintendent by Febru-

ary 1st.

- ◆ **Flex Benefit** enrollment period for 2006 ends December 16th.

NEA/NY UniServe Representative:

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Rule of thumb #26: *Enjoy your vacation—you've earned it!*

(Did you know that the average teacher spends 50 hours per week on instructional duties! from—I Am The NEA: Q&A by David Smith and Lynn Coffin.)

NEA/NY Scholarships

'Tis the Season, for seniors and parents of seniors to be looking for money for colleges. And NEA—NY scholarship fund is one place to look! These scholarships are available for the children of active and retired life members. Scholarships are specifically available for Regions 5, 6, and 7.

For children planning on attending a 4-year college, two scholar-

ships will be given. The award amount is \$2000. and each award is spread over a four year period (\$500. per year). There are also two scholarships available for children planning to attend Community Colleges if the college is an NEA/NY affiliated community college. Each of these scholarships will be \$500. per year. These award winners will also be eligible to maintain their scholarship if they continue their education at an accredited

4-year college or university.

Application packets are available in each building from your building reps. To be eligible the application must be filed by February 15th, 2006 per instructions stated on the application packets.

NEA -NY & TRC's - Keeping Us Relevant!

NEA/NY is pleased to announce that, due to the progress that has been made toward the formation of a single state organization, NYSUT is now making courses offered at its Education & Learning Centers available to NEA/NY teacher members.

Education & Learning courses can be taken for: Education Department certification requirements, movement across salary schedules, credit toward contractual/District professional devel-

opment requirements, etc. Courses are available to both ESP and Teacher members.

Brochures related to the Education & Learning courses are being sent to each of our NEA/NY Service Centers. Donna Stalker is also aware of this latest development and will keep us posted of opportunities that we may want to take advantage of!

The NYSUT web site also carries specific information about the

courses offered. Check out www.nysut.org scroll to the bottom right of the page and you will find the link to professional development.

